Watered-down money laundering law feared

STORY ON PAGE A2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2001 ★ 42 PAGES 4 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 291 ₱15

Michael Jordan, 38, announces comeback

WASHINGTON—The worst kept secret in sports is out: Michael Jordan will play again in the NBA—and not just for one season, but two.

After months of hints, smiles and winks that kept his fans on edge, Jordan finally announced his comeback Tuesday, saying he would play for the Washington Wizards through 2003 and donate his first year's salary to victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

MICHAEL/ A14

'Very shy kid,' says Osama's British teacher

LONDON—As a teenaged student, Osama bin Laden was "very shy" and "extraordinarily polite," according to his British teacher who taught him in a Saudi Arabia school.

VERY/ A15

WORLD-WEARY Pope John Paul II slumps in his chair in Yervan, Armenia, on the fourth day of his foreign tour with its theme of preventing religious differences from exploding into war. *(Story on Page A11.)* REUTERS

'America created evil attacking it'

Taliban chief blames US foreign policy for Sept. 11

"AMERICA has created the evil that is attacking it."

In a rare interview aired Tuesday over the objections of the US State Department, Mullah Mohammad Omar, the reclusive head of Afghanistan's ruling Taliban militia, blamed American foreign policy for the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington.

"The evil will not disappear even if I die and Osama (bin Laden) dies and others die," Omar warned in the exclusive interview, conducted in Pashto, with Voice of America (VOA), the US goverment-funded international broadcaster.

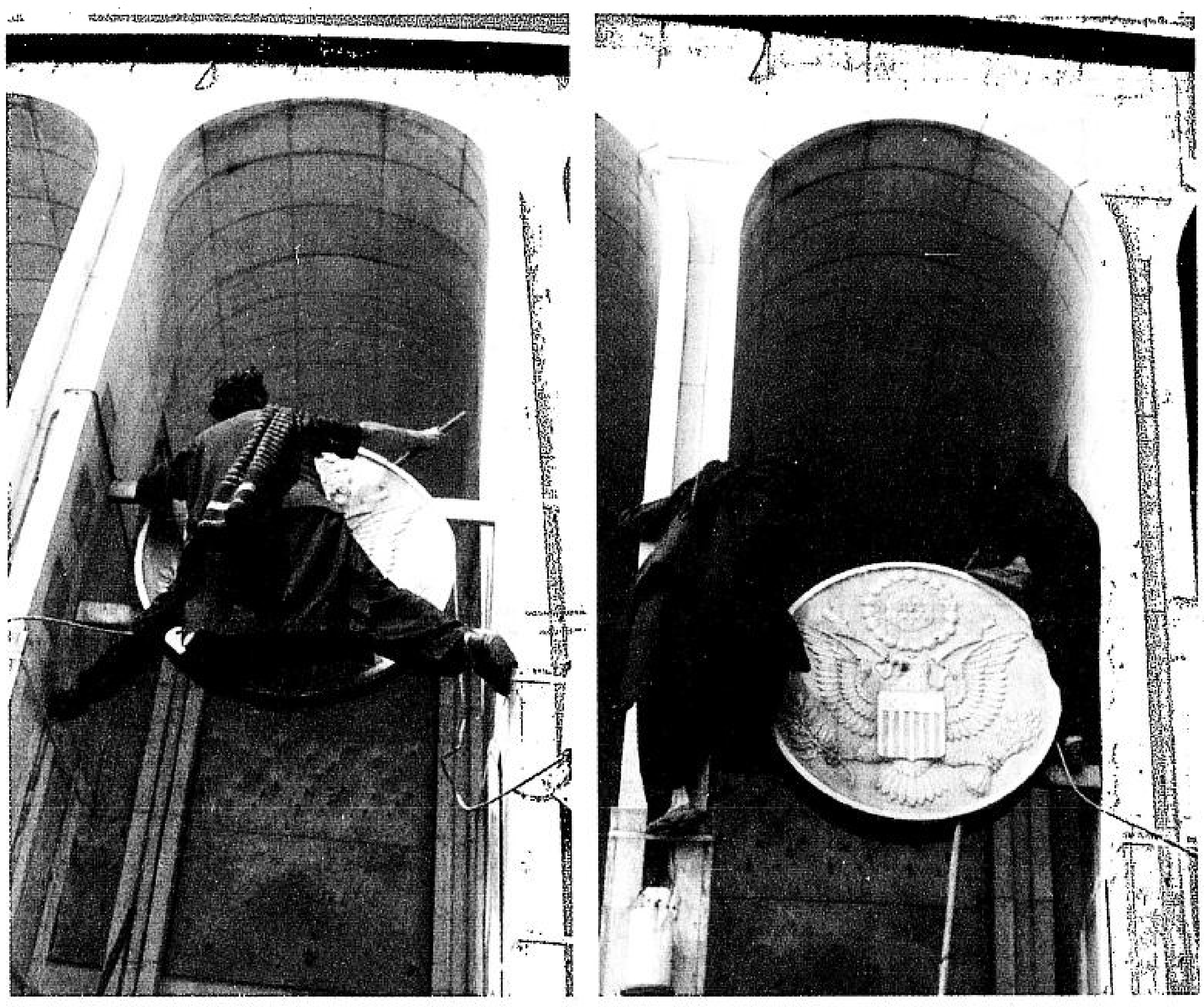
"The US should step back and review its policy. It should stop trying to impose its empire on the rest of the world, especially on Islamic countries," he added.

The US government has been widely criticized by its detractors for its Middle Eastern policy, including its embracing of Israel, decade-long sanctions against Iraq and support of repressive regimes—political actions that have resulted in untold deaths and suffering among Arabs.

"In their pain and frustration, some (Muslims) commit suicide acts. They feel they have nothing to lose," Omar told VOA.

Omar, who is reportedly Bin Laden's father-in-law and son-in-law, also said the prime suspect behind the horrible attacks would

AMERICA/ A14



DOWN with the American Eagle, the seal of the US Embassy in the Afghanistan capital of Kabul where Afghans storm the long-deserted embassy to protest the US threat of attack for the refusal of their country's ruling Taliban to hand over Osama bin Laden. "Death to Bush," the protesters chant. REUTERS

Top US Navy officer secretly visits Subic

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

THE COMMANDER in chief of the United States Pacific Fleet, the biggest naval contingent in the Asia-Pacific region, quietly slipped into Subic, Zambales, on Tuesday night for a meeting with National Security Adviser Roilo Golez.

After US Admiral Thomas B. Fargo arrived at the Subic Bay International Airport, he boarded the presidential yacht Ang Pangulo, a top Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) official, who asked not to be identified, told the INQUIRER.

The source said Fargo had dinner with Golez and a handful of top Philippine naval officials.

As commander of the US Pacific Fleet, Fargo

TOP/ A14

Solons urge gov't to protest police raids in Belgium

By Gerald G. Lacuarta and Dona Pazzibugan

LAWMAKERS yesterday urged the Philippine government to protest the detention and interrogation in Brussels of 30 Filipinos taken by police in dawn raids on Sept. 20.

Sen. Sergio Osmeña III said the Philippine government should lodge a "vigorous protest" against Belgium, and Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran said Vice President Teofisto Guingona and Justice Secretary Hernando Perez "should hasten to give aid to the Filipinos who were unjustly arrested."

But the Department of Foreign Affairs said the incident did not appear to be an anti-immigrant attack in "an open season for people of color," as claimed by Migrante International.

SOLONS/ A14

Censorship spoils VOA 'world scoop'

IT WAS a worldwide scoop for Voice of America (VOA): an interview with Taliban supreme leader Mullah Mohammad Omar.

But the US federally owned and funded international broadcaster decided Friday not to air a report that included portions of the exclusive interview, after US State Department officials said it was in-

CENSORSHIP/ A14

WAR without borders

Filipinos form part of Taliban 'foreign legion'– Russian report

By Carlito Pablo

AN UNDETERMINED number of Filipino *mujahideen* (Islamic holy warriors) may fight under the flag of the Taliban if coalition forces led by the United States invade Afghanistan.

This possibility arose as Filipinos form part of a Taliban army division under the command of a Sudanese, according to a report submitted by Russia to the United Nations Security Council.

"The eighth division of the Taliban under Mohammad Tarek, a Sudanese, includes, besides Pakistanis and Afghans, Chechens, Tajiks, Uzbeks, Filipinos, Bangladeshis, Kashmiris and nationals from Arab countries," the report said.

The report, submitted on March 9, 2001 by the permanent mission of the Russian Federation to the UN in New York, did not state where the eighth division was deployed.

The Russian report was in line with a UN

FILIPINOS/ A15

HOW to prepare the country to respond to terrorism is the subject of President Macapagal's keynote address at the 40th foundation anniversary of Philconsa on Wednesday. EDWIN BACASMAS

GMA announces '14-pillar policy' to battle terrorism

By Juliet L. Javellana

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday announced "14 pillars of policy and action" against terrorism that included deploying Filipino combat troops and medical personnel and allowing the use of Philippine air space and facilities as transit and staging grounds by the US-led International Counter-Terrorist Coalition (ICTC).

Among the other "pillars" that she announced were securing all critical installations and public places here from any "catastrophic terrorist attack," preventing the entry of toxic and biological weapons of terrorists, and identifying the terrorists in the country and destroying their network.

"We cannot predict how events will unfold or how fast they will

GMA/ A15

SENATE HEARING

Acop incurs senators' ire

By Armand N. Nocum

EX-NARCOM head Chief Supt. Reynaldo Acop, who was supposed to give his side yesterday in a Senate hearing on drug trafficking allegations, instead found himself the target of displeased senators who sought to have his bank accounts opened to their scrutiny.

Senators at the inquiry into ex-undercover agent Mary "Rosebud" Ong's accusations against Acop were one in warning that the former head of the police narcotics command could face charges of "malversation" of public funds.

At the hearing, Acop stuck to his claim that a controversial P2-million United Coconut Planters Bank check he issued to Ong involved a "personal matter between her and me."

"That is government money . . . *maiipit ka diyan* (That'll burn you out)," Sen. Joker Arroyo, chair of

ACOP/ A14

New York's rescue dogs 'depressed'

NEW YORK—Depression is beginning to hit the sniffer dogs helping firemen sift through the ruins of the World Trade Center for survivors of the Sept. 11 terrorist attack.

"When they no longer find live people, it's difficult to get them motivated. They don't like to find bodies. They'll find them but they don't feel rewarded. So they can get depressed as much as many people here do," Douglas Wyler, a vet from the American Animal Hospital Association, told AFP on Tuesday.

For two weeks not a single person has been brought out alive from the rubble of the 110-story twin towers, which collapsed in flames when they were rammed by two fuel-laden hijacked airliners.

NEW YORK'S/ A15

PAGBUTIHIN NYO ANG BILL NA YAN!

Watered-down money laundering law feared

By Volt Contreras

HOUSE members hunkering for a marathon closed-door session on the money-laundering bill yesterday looked likely to approve a watered-down version of the crucial measure needed to stave off international financial sanctions against the Philippines.

With the House leadership intent on approving the bill on second reading last night, Speaker Jose de Venecia and key House officials were still fine-tuning the measure together with Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas of ials as of 6 p.m. last night.

The Senate, however, failed to approve on second reading the upper chamber's version of the bill, after five hours of debate that ended at 7:30 last night.

Senate leaders, however, expect the measure to be approved today.

The congressmen were reported to have agreed on the threshold amount for a transaction to be considered suspicious.

But they decided to reduce the number of "predicate crimes," or the unlawful activities that are to be considered sources of laundered money.

An official privy to the meeting between House leaders and BSP officials said that from the P1 million initially agreed on at the committee level, the final threshold amount would range from P5 million to P7.5 million.

There was also a consensus to limit the number of "predicate crimes" to 10 from the 22 listed in the committee report.

The 10 crimes include drug trafficking, plunder, graft and corruption, large-scale smuggling, human smuggling, illegal gambling and kidnap for ransom, among others.

The House version is also likely to reject the creation of an anti-money laundering task force. Instead, it will propose an "anti-money laundering unit attached to the BSP."

The proposed task force was supposed to be composed of the BSP governor, the finance secretary and the chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Opposition Rep. Gilbert Remulla of Cavite told reporters the bipartisan consensus to raise the threshold amount was meant to make the bill less prone to "abuse."

One million pesos was "too low," Remulla said. It meant that anyone buying a car costing P1 million would already be subject to scrutiny under the law.

Transnational crimes, the ones chiefly targeted by the anti-money laundering law, would involve amounts definitely higher than P1 million, he said.

Rep. Rolex Suplico, commenting on the shortened list of "predicate crimes," noted that the Paris-based anti-laundering task force was most concerned about money earned laundered from organized, cross-border crimes like drug trafficking, and yet the proposed House version wanted to include up to 22 offenses.

"The Financial Action Task Force merely wanted a kiss, but we are already giving it a hug," the Iloilo congressman said.

3 suspended for Napocor land scam

By Michael Lim Ubac

OMBUDSMAN Aniano Desierto yesterday slapped a preventive suspension on three officials of the National Power Corp. and two officials of the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) in connection with an anomalous deal involving the P507.7-million Napocor substation in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

But Desierto apparently could not impose the six-month suspension order on Mehol K. Sadain since he is no longer connected with Napocor.

Sadain, who had served as officer in charge of Napocor's Office of the Vice General Counsel, is currently a commissioner of the Commission on Elections.

Under the law, a member a constitutional body like the Comelec cannot be administratively penalized or investigated since he or she is an impeachable official.

So Sadain must be first impeached before the Ombudsman's Office can initiate administrative or criminal proceedings against him.

Apparently, Ombudsman investigators were not aware of this when they recommended Sadain's suspension along with four other officials.

During his press conference yesterday morning, Desierto said: "If this Sadain is really a Comelec commissioner, then his suspension cannot be effected as yet. But we will first verify this matter."

Suspended for six months were Commie Doromal and Cathrine Pablo, assistant general counsel and officer in charge, respectively, of the Napocor's litigation and land rights department, Assistant Solicitor General Amparo Cabotajetang and Associate Solicitor Christopher Arpon.

Desierto found that the Napocor and Solgen officials entered into an anomalous compromise agreement for the purchase of lands affected by the expansion project of the Napocor Dasmariñas substation.

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Nat'l ID system gets mixed reaction

By Rocky Nazareno and Christian V. Esguerra

THE REVIVED proposal for a national identification system has drawn mixed reactions, with one sector of society fully supporting it and another advising caution in its implementation.

"I am in favor of a general ID system and would author a law if needed," said Rep. Prospero Pichay (Surigao del Sur), chair of the House committee on national defense.

Pichay said the national ID card would be "the principal proof of citizenship and residency that would be more credible than birth or residence certificates."

House committee on accounts chair Rep. Robert Ace Barbers (Surigao del Norte) said that while he had objected to a national ID card during the Estrada administration, "the times have definitely changed."

With the recent terrorist attacks in the United States, as well as the impending war against Afghanistan, "our government has the obligation to defend its citizens and provide such instruments that would make life easier for all," Barbers said.

The Office on Muslim Affairs, however, asked Malacañang yesterday to go slow on a national ID system.

"The national ID system must not discriminate against non-Muslims," said Datu Tahir Lidasan Jr., chief executive assistant of the OMA.

Muslims in Metro Manila have reportedly suffered indiscriminate arrests as part of the government crackdown on suspected terrorists.

Lidasan said the government should first consult with various groups, particularly Muslim organizations, before implementing the national ID system.

He made the suggestion following the arrest reportedly without a warrant of businessman Omra Macmac in his Pasig residence for alleged drug trafficking. Around 100 Muslims later stormed Northern Police district headquarters to "rescue" the businessman.

A week before, Prof. Taha Basman of the Philippine Islamic Council said, policemen seized a Muslim millionaire in Quiapo on similar charges.

The man, he said, was released after giving at least P500,000 and two vehicles to the arresting officers.

Malacañang said a technical working group and a private computer consultant have been engaged to study the mechanisms of putting in place a one ID system.

Bank keeping P11-M account of Ricaforte

EQUITABLE-PCIBANK has refused to deliver to the Sandiganbayan the P11 million in deposits belonging to Yolanda Ricaforte, one of the accused in the plunder case against ousted President Joseph Estrada.

In a letter to the Sandiganbayan, the bank's lawyers said the bank has already complied with the anti-graft court's earlier order to freeze the nine Ricaforte accounts.

The lawyers said the court's latest "notice to deliver" the P11 million was against the rules of court.

Lawyers Victor Alimurung and Mario Andres of the Siguion Reyna, Montecillo and Ongsiako Law Offices said Rule 57 of the rules of court require the bank to deliver the funds to the court after it had rendered a judgment on the case.

"We have reviewed the applicable provisions of the rules of court on preliminary attachment and we respectfully submit that the notice to deliver was not in conformity with it," the lawyers said in the letter addressed to Sandiganbayan sheriff Edgardo Urieta.

"Our client will, of course, continue to set aside the garnished bank deposits of Ms Ricaforte and keep the same in safe custody pending the final outcome of the present case," Alimurung and Andres said in their letter.

The Sandiganbayan had ordered Equitable-PCIBank to transfer the Ricaforte funds, "principal and accrued interest" now totaling some P11 million to the Land Bank of the Philippines, a government bank.

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News that makes a difference

PAL fare hike looms

PHILIPPINE Airlines said yesterday it would raise fares by $5 to $6 to pay for higher insurance costs following terrorist attacks in the United States.

The new rates are to apply on international fares starting next week as a form of "insurance surcharge," PAL president Avelino Zapanta told reporters in a conference call.

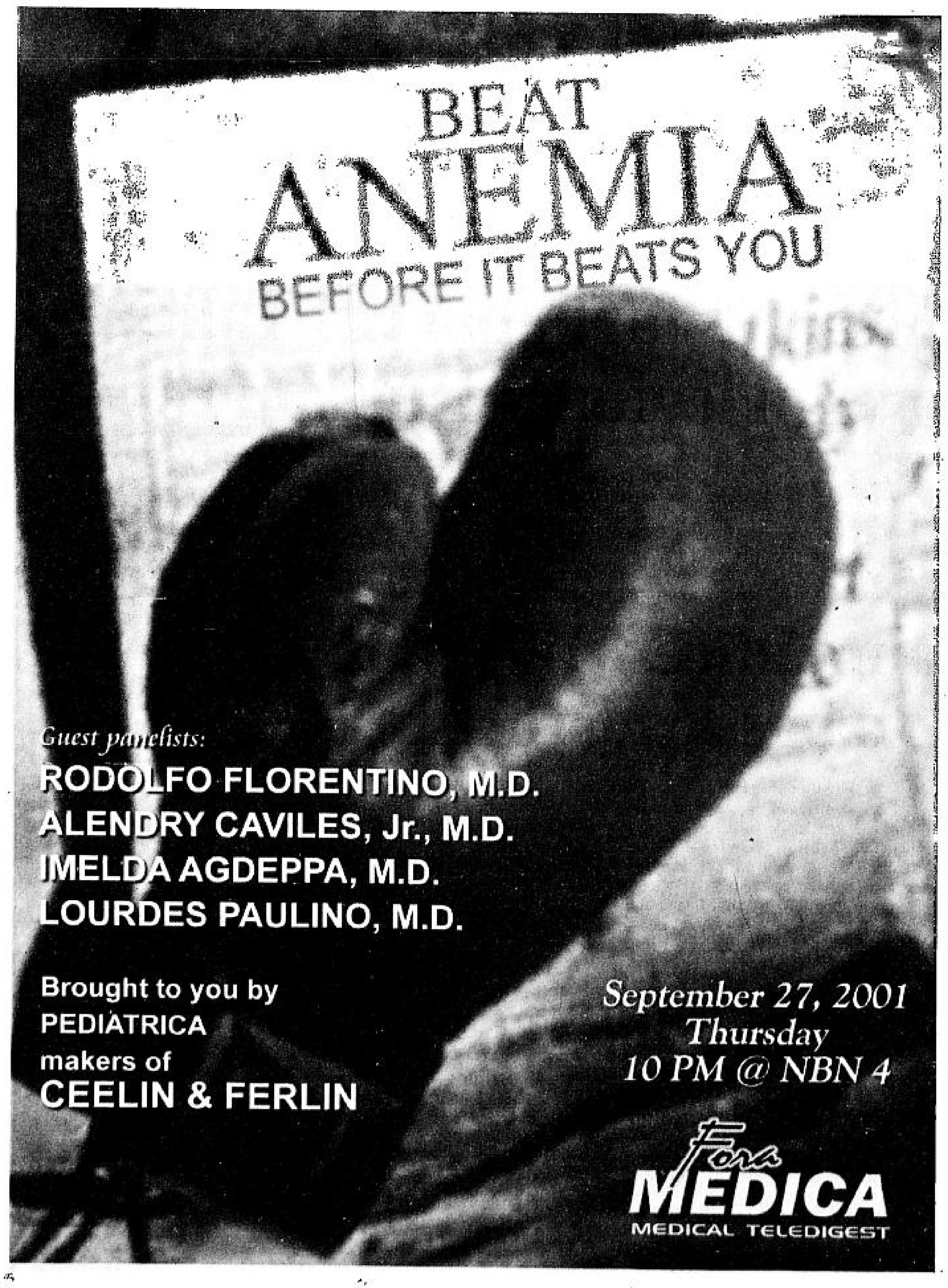
Transportation Undersecretary Wilfredo Trinidad said carriers would have to file a formal application with the Civil Aeronautics Board for a fare increase.

Filipino carriers won a pledge of support from the government on Tuesday after insurance companies slashed their cover for war and terrorist attacks following the attacks by hijacked aircraft on the World Trade Center and Pentagon.

From Tuesday, insurance companies cut the maximum insurance payouts for third parties—such as building owners or victims on the ground—to $50 million from $2 billion in incidents caused by terrorism or war.

PAL has said it lost up to P200 million after US airspace was briefly closed down following the Sept. 11 attacks.

Trinidad said that it was studying the manner by which the government would support the Filipino carriers. *AFP*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Lacson dared: Prove Nani's bank accounts

By Michael Lim Ubac and Cathy C. Yamsuan

OMBUDSMAN Aniano Desierto yesterday dared Sen. Panfilo Lacson to substantiate his claim that Justice Secretary Hernando Perez has a $20-million bank account in Hong Kong.

"Is there any evidence?" asked Desierto as he asked Lacson to prove it, or shut up.

Said Desierto: "We should stop attacking each other in this country if there's no evidence (to back the charges. We should preserve the harmony in our society."

The justice secretary himself said he doubts if Lacson really accused him of keeping $20 million in a Hong Kong bank.

Perez, who turns 62 today, said he thinks Lacson may have been provoked into saying that because of a question asked by a reporter.

Perez said someone asked for Lacson's reaction to his warning that the senator might still be covered by the anti-money laundering bill that Malacañang wants Congress to pass by Sept. 30 if he continues to maintain multimillion-dollar deposits abroad by the time it is signed into law.

Perez said Lacson replied: "*Baka siya* (Perez) *meron.*"

Perez apparently got hold of a copy of the transcript of the ambush interview Lacson gave to Senate reporters Tuesday afternoon before the start of the session.

Perez said he examined the transcript to see whether he could take legal action, like a libel case, against Lacson but found none.

"The reply was even made in a joking mood. The transcript shows (Lacson) did not really accuse me. It was not a straight accusation and I am appealing to all parties concerned, especially the media to straighten the facts and not make any undue conclusion," Perez said in a news conference.

Perez blames "some sectors who want me to be out" of Malacañang for the play-up on his alleged bank account."

He said he reported a P33-million net worth in his latest statement of assets and liabilities given to the Office of the Ombudsman.

Perez added, however, that if Lacson were serious about his charges, he will answer them in court.

During the interview Thursday, Lacson actually said Perez "could be looking at his own bank account, not mine" when told about the secretary's claim that he has $20-million in one account in Hong Kong.

Lacson mentioned the word "extortion" when queried about how Perez supposedly acquired that much money.

Desierto vowed to immediately proceed to a formal investigation of Lacson's allegations—without any preliminary inquiry—once there's a showing that Perez owns the alleged $20-million account at the Coutts bank in Hong Kong.

The Ombudsman's Office is currently investigating Lacson on a host of high-profile cases, including his alleged mind-boggling dollar accounts in Hong Kong and North America.

He said his office would not hesitate to include Perez in its investigation even though the latter is a fellow government prosecutor in the plunder case against Joseph Estrada.

However, he said his office could not proceed with an investigation based solely on a "mere utterance."

"As in the other cases, I have asked the complainants to produce evidence. When military intelligence chief Victor Corpus and NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco accused Lacson of money-laundering, I immediately asked them to substantiate the charges," he said.

He said the complainants should not rely on the Ombudsman's Office to do evidence gathering for them "since it's not easy to go after bank accounts."

He added: "Our capability is limited (because of budgetary constraints). It will best serve us to help us look for even a minimal evidence."

However, if Lacson could not do so, Desierto said the former and his fellow senators should attend to the more pressing problems of the state.

"This country is beset with societal ills—both political and economic," he added.

Ping says he has evidence

By Armand N. Nocum

SEN. Panfilo Lacson yesterday said he would reveal information regarding alleged multimillion accounts of Justice Secretary Hernando Perez when the latter goes up for confirmation before the Commission on Appointments soon.

In an impromptu news briefing, Lacson said he has solid evidence regarding accounts that Perez allegedly laundered money abroad.

"Let's wait for the confirmation hearings and he will hear more and he will see more," he said.

"We have documents, he will be confronted there. We don't accuse without basis, unlike them, they keep on accusing, but they show nothing for it, except all talk," he said.

According to him, the reported account of Perez was opened up through a dummy "very much identifiable with him."

Earlier, Lacson said Perez could have as much as $20 million, the account which the latter claimed to have discovered in the name of Lacson abroad.

He said the money was deposited in the Coutts Bank in Hong Kong.

According to him, documents show that Perez's dummy deposited close to $2 million in the bank on Feb. 22, a few weeks after Ms Macapagal assumed the presidency.

He said $250,000 was allegedly deposited to the same account in June.

Lacson said Perez obtained the money from "extortion." He said one of those victimized was Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez, who is facing extradition to the US for various charges.

Rosebud's ex flares up

SENIOR Supt. John Campos flared up at the Senate inquiry into Sen. Panfilo Lacson's alleged criminal activities yesterday, saying he had not been given a chance to give his side on the accusations against him by witness Mary "Rosebud" Ong, his ex-lover.

Campos and other police officers implicated by Ong had shown up for the third time at the Senate hearing yesterday but were again unable to testify because of lack of time.

Only Chief Supt. Reynaldo Acop managed to continue with his testimony yesterday.

Campos, who has been accused by Ong of having been in business with the Chinese drug triads, brought his frustrations to the media at the end of the three-hour hearing.

"They (senators) always give time to Mary Ong (for her) to add on to the statements she (made in the case she) filed eight months ago," Campos complained.

The police officer also angrily refuted Ong's claims that he was engaged in drug trafficking.

"I have received many medals as an officer. I received awards... I don't have anything to do with drugs. Why are they doing this to me?" he said.

Campos said he has not worked under Lacson for the past 10 years. *Christine Avendaño*

PSE president sacked

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange Board of Directors yesterday dismissed Ramon T. Garcia as PSE president over a controversial word war with Philippine Long Distance Telephone president and Metro Pacific Corp. chair Manuel Pangilinan.

During a long and heated meeting yesterday, the board voted nine to one (five members are absent) in favor of ousting Garcia for what was deemed to be an "inappropriate" response to the row with Pangilinan, according to INQUIRER sources

Garcia had lambasted Pangilinan and MPC for attempting to amend a 1999 deed of donation over a property in MPC's flagship project in Fort Bonifacio Global City that was supposed to unify the two PSE trading floors by 2004.

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PROGRAM AND SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

September 24, 2001 (Monday)

3:00 p.m.	UE Chorale Concert *Caloocan Campus* *Multi-Purpose Hall*

September 26, 2001 (Wednesday)

10:00 a.m.	Opening of Art Exhibit *Caloocan Campus* *College of Engineering*
1:00 p.m.	UE Chorale Concert *UE Theater*
4:00 p.m.	Awarding of Plaques of Appreciation to Athletes *Century Park Hotel*

September 27, 2001 (Thursday)

8:00 a.m.	UE Band Presentation *Manila Campus*
9:30 a.m.	Mass *Conference Hall*

September 27, 2001 (Thursday)

11:00 a.m.	Opening of Art Exhibit College of Fine Arts *Manila Campus*
2-5 p.m.	Students' Musical Extravaganza/Talents Show *Manila Campus*
6:00 p.m.	Tribute to Dr. Lucio C. Tan *Century Park Hotel*

September 28, 2001 (Friday)

9:30 a.m.	Cultural Show *UE Theater*
3:00 p.m.	University Service Awards *Conference Hall*

October 6, 2001 (Saturday)

4:00 p.m.	Alumni Homecoming *Manila Campus*

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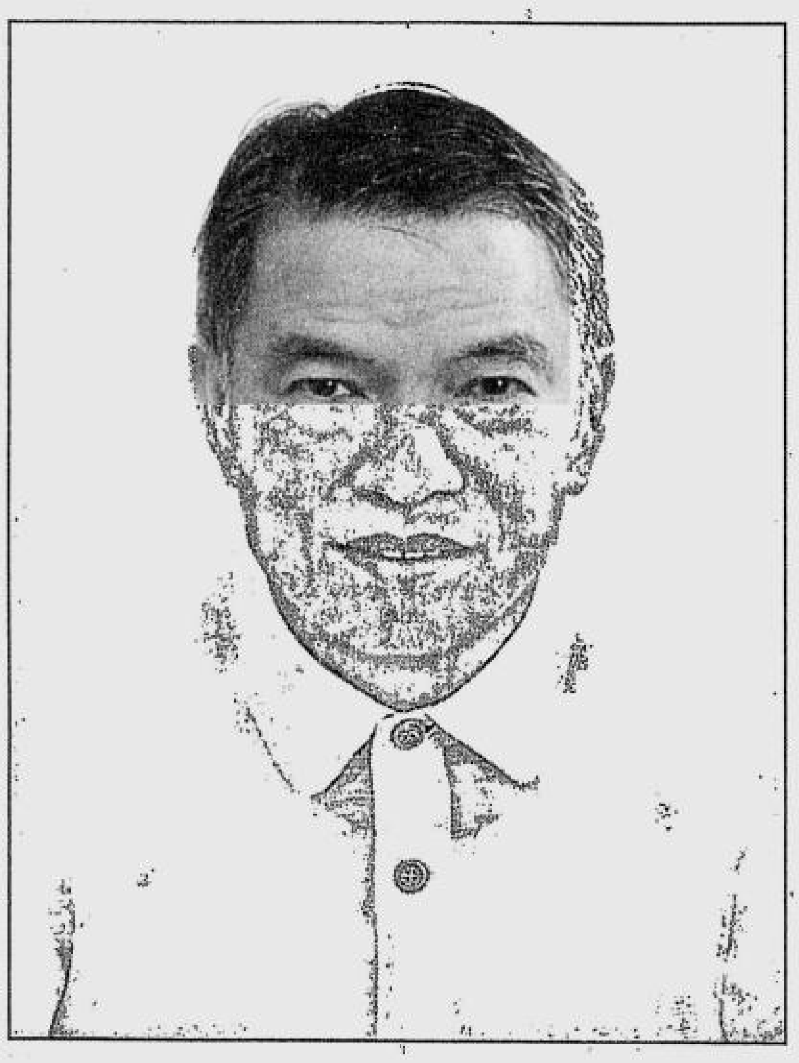

For serving as role model of an outstanding captain of industry to our youth, inspiring them to emulate the self-discipline, diligence, perseverance and determination that have propelled his own rise to great success;

For his many pioneering ventures and interests in diverse fields of business, which have provided employment, livelihood and income to countless Filipinos all over the country, significantly improving the quality of their lives and spurring socio-economic growth and progress in every way;

For, among others, being a prime exponent of applied agriculture, whose potentials he has boosted through research and development to increase the yield and quality of corn, tobacco and orchard crops, as well as the introduction of new technologies in hog-raising and bee-keeping;

For playing a pivotal role in reviving two companies vital to the nation's welfare and prestige, to wit, Philippine Airlines and the Philippine National Bank, raising and infusing billions of capital to ensure their survival;

For his sincere, encompassing and magnanimous commitment to a very broad range of humanitarian, educational, religious and scientific causes that have benefited many sectors of Philippine society, particularly the academe, local governments, and charitable, church, civic and community organizations, thereby raising local philanthropy to new heights;

For his strong leadership of the Filipino-Chinese community, particularly during his tenure as President of the Filipino-Chinese Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, which through its "Barrio School Project" has built and donated some 460 classrooms to the most needy barangays in the provinces;

For establishing the Asia Brewery Medical Specialty Scholarships Foundation, which sends deserving graduates of various medical schools to the US, Spain, Germany, Australia, Hong Kong and Singapore for further studies in their chosen areas of specialization;

For founding and continuing to be the principal benefactor of the Foundation for Upgrading the Standard of Education (FUSE), a non-profit organization which, in partnership with the government agencies concerned, serves as a catalyst for progressively enhancing the skills of English, Science and Mathematics teachers;

For creating the Tan Yan Kee Foundation, Inc. (TYKFI), through which a considerable share of the profits from his group of companies have been funneled towards constructing school buildings, hospitals, churches and housing for the underprivileged, supporting livelihood, environmental and sports development programs, funding calamity assistance, anti-crime and anti-drug campaigns, and last but not the least, providing scholarship grants to hundreds of undergraduate and graduate scholars in major universities and colleges annually;

Finally, for coming to the rescue of the University of the East during its most serious crisis in the Eighties, and investing whatever resources and efforts were required to turn UE around to sound management, financial stability and academic excellence, as well as encouraging its vigorous entry into the age of information technology in recent years;

The University of the East recognizes and salutes DR. LUCIO CHUA TAN as a pillar of national progress, a man of vision and a true Filipino, and takes pride in according him this Special Tribute on this 27th day of September in the Year of Our Lord 2001, on the occasion of its 55th Foundation Day.

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OPINION

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Vol. 16 No. 291
ISSN 0116-2642

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The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati • P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati City, Philippines • Our new telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments; Editorial Fax 897-4793, 897-4794; Advertising 897-4807; Circulation 527-33-42, 527-33-48, 528-01-83, 528-01-86 and 528-02-13, Fax: 528-02-34.

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Horror weapons

EDITORIAL

WE have not yet seen the last of the horror weapons of mass annihilation available to terrorists. Amid the mounting toll of more than 7,000 dead recovered from the rubble of the World Trade Center in New York, warnings have been expressed by the World Health Organization for people to be prepared for possible biological or chemical attacks by militant organizations.

Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland, head of WHO, told a meeting of western hemisphere health ministers this week, that, "We must prepare for the possibility that people are deliberately harmed with biological and chemical agents" by groups seeking to capitalize on the suicide attacks in the United States on Sept. 11. US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld has said the US government has taken the threat of such an attack seriously. These fears have been heightened with the confirmation by Attorney General John Ashcroft that Mohamed Atta, one of those suspected in the attacks, was acquiring knowledge of crop-dusting aircraft, presumably to carry out a chemical attack.

The world had a foretaste of the effect of chemical attack on March 20, 1995, when a religious cult, AUM Shinrikyo, staged sarin gas attacks in Tokyo subway stations, killing nearly a dozen people and injuring about 5,000 others. The gas was set off from a soft drink can, a briefcase and a white plastic bag. These devices can be wrapped in newspapers.

A study made on a hypothetical incident in which a disgruntled person spreads anthrax over a football stadium with 74,000 spectators has demonstrated that 10 days after the attack, 30,000 are sick and 700, dead. By the next day, the number of those dead doubles to 1,500. Security seminars on terrorism have presented the scenario that likely targets of chemical or biological attacks are airports, subways and shopping centers with large concentrations of people.

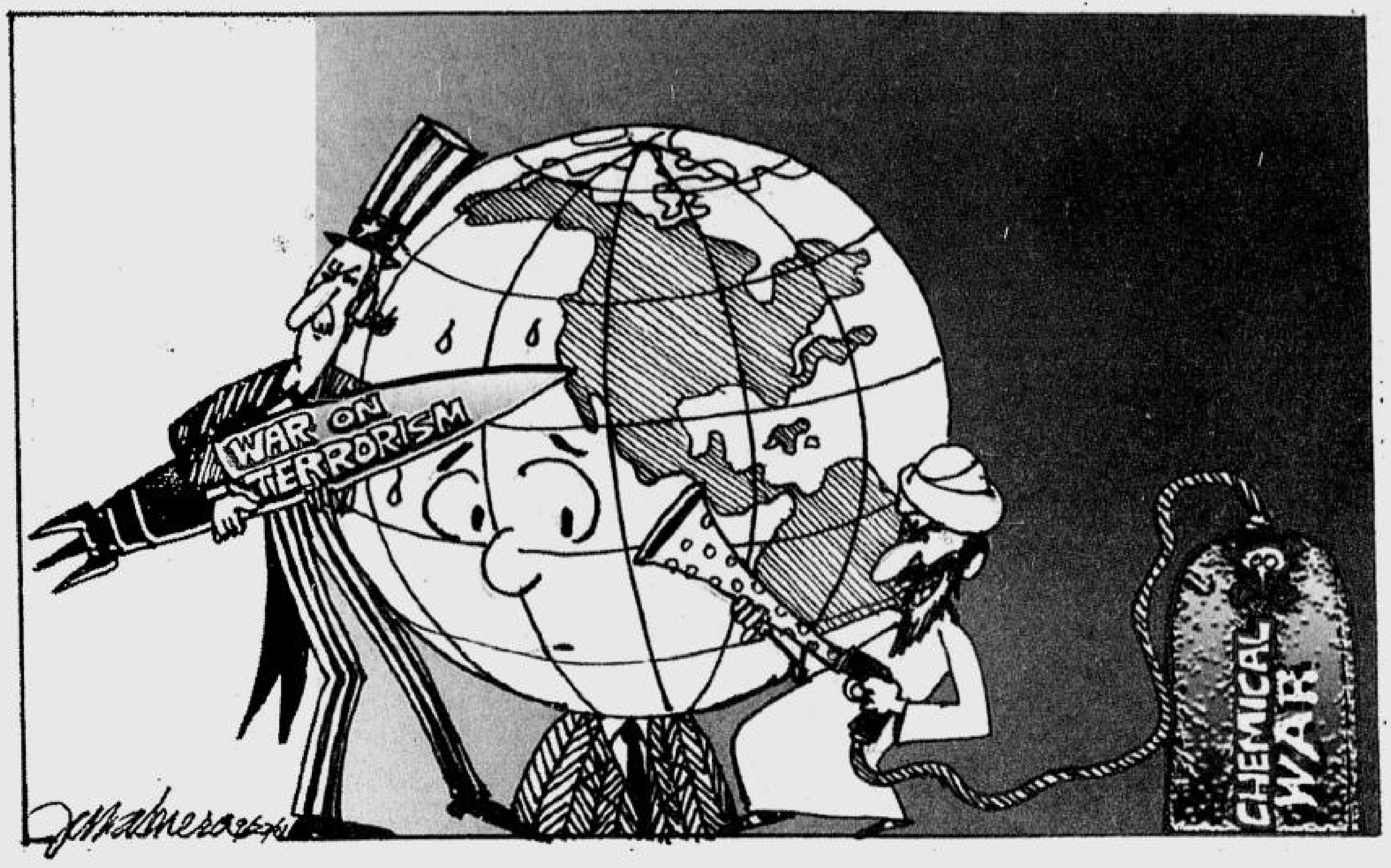
Iraq has been a prime suspect of having developed an arsenal of biological and chemical weapons. When it was attacked by the US-led coalition in the Gulf War, the allies were on guard against Iraqi retaliation with these weapons. Many countries, including the United States, Nazi Germany, Russia and Japan, have conducted experiments on the use of bacteriological and toxic chemicals as weapons of warfare, but except during the First World War, poison gas, has not been used in wars that followed. During World War I, mustard gas was used by those sides in trench warfare, but as the war heightened, the belligerents made little use of toxic gas because of the threat it posed to catastrophic loss of lives. The biggest killers in history are not wars with their battlefield casualties, but diseases. The Black Death (bubonic plague) that swept Europe in the 13th century killed no less than 10 million people, a fourth of the continent's population. The flu epidemic that ravaged the world after World War I killed no less than 21 million people.

In germ warfare, the most vicious agents are anthrax, viruses like flu, and the plague that can spread over large areas quickly, through being carried by the wind and contamination, and these kill large numbers of people. A chemical or anthrax attack in a subway of any major city could create casualties far more than the casualties from the World Trade Center attack, and stretch the health facilities beyond their capacity, causing multiplication of diseases. We saw how the New York City facilities were inadequate to cope with the bombing casualties.

If despite the experimentation that has been going on, countries have not dug their arsenal of biological and chemical weapons and deploy them in warfare, the reason is that if one country unleashed them, retaliation could follow swiftly, causing mass annihilation of civilian populations. There has been a balance of terror, stopping warring nations from using these weapons.

But in the war on terrorism, where there are no borders, there is little constraint on terrorist groups against using these weapons, as they did when using innocent civilians as human torpedoes to hit population centers. Since there is no enemy state to retaliate, terrorists can unleash these weapons and flee, making retaliation hard to focus.

This is a compelling reason why the war on terrorism has to be an international effort. Terrorism does not follow any rules and does not exclude the use of weapons of genocide.



We are already being poisoned by mercury

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE FILIPINOS don't realize it yet, but we are already being bombarded with chemical and biological warfare. Not by terrorists but by Filipinos blissfully unaware that they are putting at risk the health and lives of their countrymen—and, ironically, also their own, by releasing poison into the environment. And, what horror, by well-meaning doctors—pediatricians who give vaccinations to babies, and dentists who put fillings in the cavities of their patients' teeth.

The poison is mercury, the most common sample of which is that silver-colored liquid inside thermometers. The shiny liquid looks beautiful but it is deadly. It can kill quickly, but often after a long, horribly painful illness. Children who accidentally bite a thermometer and swallow the mercury should be rushed to a hospital but in 90 percent of cases of mercury poisoning, the victims don't realize they are being poisoned until it is too late. For example, patients with dental fillings laced with mercury, don't realize that they are slowly being poisoned by their fillings. Not all fillings have mercury, but check with your dentist to be safe. For another, plasma-derived vaccines routinely injected into babies have mercury and even some pediatricians don't realize yet that this is toxic to children below 9 years old when their brains are growing fast.

Mercury affects the brain and the nervous system, hence, also the muscles and the organs. Early symptoms are tremors and shaking of the limbs. Later there is loss of balance and motor coordination, deafness and loss of memory. In the final stages, the kidney fails; there are convulsions before death.

The best example of the effects of mercury poisoning are the victims of the Minamata Disease, named after the small fishing village in Japan where 4,000 of the villagers were poisoned by mercury being spewed by factories into the sea. The fish ate the mercury and the cats, dogs and human ate the fish and were stricken. The first inkling that something was wrong was when the villagers saw cats and dogs staggering about, unable to walk or stand up, and later seized by convulsions until they died. Soon after, humans developed the same symptoms. In the end, 300 died and about 400 more were permanently disabled.

Minamata seems such a faraway place that poses no danger to us, but an epidemic of Minamata Disease may soon hit us if the government—specifically the Department of Health, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Energy, Bureau of Fisheries and Bureau of Mines—doesn't do anything fast to stop the pollution of our waters and air with mercury.

Mercury is commonly used in gold panning. Gold particles bond with mercury; that is how it is recovered from the mixture of sand and mud being panned. In the process, mercury is loosed into the streams, rivers and eventually into the sea. In their homes, the amalgam of gold and mercury is blowtorched by the miners to recover the gold. In the process, mercury evaporates into the air and is breathed not only by the miners and their families but also by their neighbors and even those living far away from the mining areas.

In a forum sponsored by the Philippine College of Physicians and Mirror Weekly, a health magazine, Dr. Nelia Cortes-Maramba, professor of pharmacology and toxicology of UP Manila and head of its National Poison Control and Information Service,—whose team made a health survey of gold-panning sites in the Philippines—said 86 percent of miners and their families in Diwalwal have toxic levels of mercury in their bodies. Twenty percent of non-miners living near the mining sites also have mercury poisoning, as well as 11 percent of blue and white-collar workers living away from the mines. Mercury poisoning is already scattered all over the country not only in the mining areas, and including Parañaque and Las Piñas in Metro Manila.

Areas around coal-powered power plants—as in Calaca, Batangas, Sual Pangasinan and Quezon province—are also contaminated. Coal has mercury which is vaporized and released into the atmosphere through the smokestacks. It then spreads through the countryside and taints the fields, crops and other vegetation. Coal ash dumped by the power plants into the sea poisons the waters and the organisms there.

The trouble with mercury is that it silently accumulates in the body until there is too much and symptoms appear. By then, it may be too late.

Mercury is ingested by the fish and the shellfish which are then eaten by humans. The poison accumulates in their bodies. The only way to know if you already have mercury poisoning is through expensive laboratory tests. Sadly, there is no antidote to mercury poisoning. Doctors can only slowly detoxify your body.

Dr. Maramba said that fish and shellfish caught in Compostela Valley and near the shores of Davao del Norte were all found to be contaminated with mercury. Those of you who like to eat lapulapu, tuna sashimi, tuna belly and *panga* ng tuna, listen to this. Big carnivorous fish such as these have the highest concentrations of mercury. They eat the smaller fishes already contaminated with mercury and the poison accumulates in their bodies. But only those caught in Compostela Valley, offshore of Davao del Norte, and other bodies of water contaminated with mercury. Those caught in the high seas, such as those sold in General Santos, Cotabato, are free of the poison, Dr. Maramba said.

The trouble is how can you be sure where the tuna or lapulapu before you were caught? Cooking does not eliminate the mercury. To be safe, Dr. Maramba advises to buy the small non-carnivorous fish like dilis, asuhos, galunggong, and the cultured ones like bangus, pla-pla and tilapia.

Eating is not the only way you can get mercury poisoning. Just by bathing in seas and rivers tainted with mercury can get you poisoned. The poison enters your body not only through wounds but even through intact skin. Dr. Maramba relates that certain ointment rubbed on the bodies of children has mercury which seeps through the skin and slowly poisons them. The only early symptom is when the child's body turns pink, she said.

Mike

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

LAST Monday, a friend of mine died. He was 51. He was a poet. He was Mike Bigornia.

He died as suddenly as he had fits of inspiration. He had been texting friends only that morning, while the winds howled and rain pelted a grimy city. His wife, Tek, would say that he was even cheerful at breakfast that morning although he complained of not feeling very well, and chose to stay home that day. He had called people to break off appointments. He was the head of Unyon ng mga Manunulat sa Pilipinas (Umpil), and had been busy the past weeks working out projects for it.

Later that morning, he traded text jokes with friends, text jokes, his friends would say later, that had to do with Osama bin Laden. Even poets in this country cannot resist gallows humor, and the cellular phone seems especially given to it. Alas, laughter would not prove to be the best medicine, though friends would later extend the gallows humor to say that maybe the jokes had something to do with sending him to the gallows.

He stayed in his room that whole morning. Later that day, Tek called out to him for lunch, but got no answer. She went to his room to wake him up but found him crumpled on his bed, his face ashen. She rushed him to the hospital, but they could not revive him. By noon of Monday, Sept. 24, 2001, the impossible had happened.

Mike Bigornia, the last person you would think to leave this world by a heart attack, was dead.

It wasn't just his friends who were stunned—though the word is a poor one to express the depths of speechlessness and disbelief they felt—it was the entire literary community. Mike, a quiet person who carried out his duties as poet and head of Umpil with passion and diligence, not necessarily respectively, was well loved. The crowd that gathered at St. Peter's last Monday night did not really know why they were there. It seemed totally unreal or alien, the concept that Mike would no longer share the laughter and roguishness of their company, at least in corporeal form. Everyone half expected him to step out of an FX and ask what everybody was doing there.

Talking to some friends that Monday night, I realized how little I really knew Mike, something I regret now. We were together in the Galian sa Arte at Tula, the forum or workshop of writers in Filipino, early on, but for some reason we never got beyond exchanging pleasantries in literary gatherings. Well, part of the reason for it was that they were resolute poets while I was complete dilettante. I drifted away from GAT after a couple of years, getting into all sorts of political engagements, or entanglements, though I still occasionally attended some of their activities. They on the other hand remained loyal to their Muse, or to the only thing really worth doing in life, which is writing poetry. I did get to share many a glass or bottle with Mike, but often in rowdy company, where people recited poetry or debated loudly, whichever came first, or drew in listeners. Those were not occasions given to plumbing souls.

I did know a couple of things about Mike. One was that he was an excellent singer and dancer, in contrast to most of us who could only croak and stagger about, proving that words were not the only natural allies of poets. I wondered last Monday how someone who danced, and danced so well, could go in this way. I've always thought dancers and orchestra conductors were the least given to heart problems, though they've been known to have problems of the heart. And he didn't just sing Frank Sinatra, he sang like Frank Sinatra. He sang Frank Sinatra with a soulful-ness Frank Sinatra himself might have envied, a strange thing for someone who belonged to a generation rocked and rolled by Elvis Presley and the Beatles. What can one say? He had good taste.

But more than that, I knew he was a damned good poet. If he was a sound-alike when he sang in piano bars, he was no sound-alike when he wrote poetry. He had his own voice, a gritty one, hard-edged as the pavement of the city he prowled and loved. He did not turn away from the dust and grime, from tortuous alleys and tortured souls that reeked of gin and despair, but he always transformed them into something else. There was a redemptive quality to the most depressing of his subjects.

That poetry was in full display last Tuesday night when the writers came out full force to extol his life and mourn his passing. More resonant than the recollections dredged up by his friends from their memories were his words, dredged up by him from the pit of his soul. Those words soared above the din of grief, suspending time, bending space, breathing life to a room choked by tears and candle smoke. His words would be there forever, even if he won't be. I suddenly remembered someone saying when Jimi Hendrix died in the flush of life. "We'll all go, but he, he (expletive deleted) will always be there."

I wished though that we had been listening to his words on a happier occasion, such as a book launching. For a while, I wondered how many more books Mike might have written if he had clung to his mortal shell a little longer. But I saw friends I hadn't seen in a long time that night, pried loose from where they were, from what they were doing, by the force of his passing, and I thought that maybe this wasn't a bad way to go at all. To be in the company of your friends at the end, to have your words still beating hearts, and revive still ones, there is a sense of transformation there, there is a sense of redemption there. There is a sense of triumph there. Love and friendship do restore the resplendence of life more than all the embalmers' skills put together. Poetry does breath life to lifeless souls more than all the respirators and resuscitators put together. The human spirit does rise over defeat, refusing to be awed even by death itself.

I held this thought for a while. A few minutes later, I lapsed back into inconsolability.

Save Siargao

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

AFTER TWO weeks of the local and international media's saturation with the terroristic attacks on the US and the expected war in Afghanistan, many of us found ourselves welcoming the resumption of the joint hearings in the Senate on the drug-trafficking and money-laundering charges against Sen. Panfilo Lacson and his former cohorts. There is, admittedly, something perverse about the way many of us welcomed the local problems after a heavy bombardment on international terrorism. The fact, however, was that in the Senate hearings yesterday morning, Police Supt. Reynaldo Acot did nearly all the talking for three hours, but his credibility still didn't measure up to Mary Ong's. One factor in her favor was her penchant for details and habit of jotting down everything in a diary, whereas Acot suffered constantly from amnesia.

* * *

The senators zeroed in mainly on Acot's biggest vulnerability, the P2 million personal check he gave Rosebud two years ago, which she never encashed. There were many loose ends in that issue: she claimed it was "show money" given by Acot as a down for a drug buy, while Acot claimed it came from Sen. Tito Sotto's anti-drug CDF and intended to help bail out the beleaguered agent from a personal financial problem. But Acot couldn't explain why he gave her the check when he was already out of the Narcotics Command. He insisted that this was the only check he gave her from his personal UCPB San Juan account, but Rosebud later showed this to be false, as he also gave her a second check for P100,000, to rescue her from a gambling indebtedness.

This generosity on Acot's part to dispense with Sotto's CDF was noticed by Senate Minority Leader Nene Pimentel who rightly pointed out that they constituted public funds. He asked Acot if he would agree to the joint committees examining that account, but Acot refused, prompting Pimentel to urge chair Robert Barbers to consider ordering the investigation. Acot also complicated things toward the end by admitting that the details of the fund disbursement were handled by his wife.

Since Sotto's CDF for the anti-drug effort, amounting to P8 million, was constantly referred to, perhaps it's time he explained to the taxpayers whether he knew that it was being generously disbursed to private pockets.

* * *

Diving instructor Gary Cases, who holds a degree in marine biology and is credited with successfully rehabilitating reefs in Mactan, Dakak in Zamboanga del Sur and Pearl Farm in Davao, has sent appeal letters to Senators Loren Legarda and Rodolfo Biazon, urging them to help save Siargo Island. Siargao, off the coast of Surigao, is where the waters of the Pacific Ocean enter the Philippine waters, and the municipality of Gen. Luna on its southeastern part is known as the "surfing capital" of the Philippines because of its big waves that are considered by experts as comparable to any surfing destination in the world, such as Waikiki and Florida. But as Gary put it, in over 50 dives around these areas, "I saw how man has destroyed something so beautiful." Siargao's story could well be that of many other beautiful places in our exotic islands. *Saklolo*, Secretaries Heherson Alvarez of the DENR and Joey Lina of the DILG.

* * *

Cases points out that in this sleepy beautiful town with a stunning white beach, which once teemed with marine life, never is there a day when the tranquility is not disturbed by a loud boom or two of dynamite. On an unusually "busy" day the place sounds like "New Year's Eve." Cases relates that in the course of making a survey on diving areas for a investor-friend, what surprised him is that even with so much punishment from the dynamiters, the Siargao reef is still alive. The diver relates that his group tried to rehabilitate a small reef as an experiment and in a month it was already teeming with fish fry. In three months it had attracted bigger fish that prey on the smaller ones. Sadly, however, in the fourth month it was dynamited and they were left with 40 kilos of dead fish and a pile of rubble. Moreover, the DENR has put up a ranger's station of sorts that collects fees from visitors to the area, supposedly to protect Suhoton Cave; but right in that lagoon, one will find fishermen dragging nets and hear chainsaws felling trees.

* * *

But that's not all. The local government has reclaimed the shoreline and built a sea wall to construct a public market. But as my niece, Gai Olivares, who has worked in Siargao, put it, "the sad fact which seems to be lost on many resort developers is that any unnatural or artificial structures erected on a beach will cause it to erode. This is because the structures disrupt the natural flow of the tides for kilometers around, affecting not only the beach upon which these structures are built, but also the beaches of surrounding islands." In addition, points out Cases, there is also a mangrove area at the border of Gen. Luna and Dapa which is very exotic and typical of a tropical island; the place is also a natural harbor for small sea crafts, including sailboats. Unfortunately, the local authorities are building a bridge over the stream that will link Barangay Union to the town of Gen. Luna, but environmentalists note that this bridge will prevent the boats from going into the place. Their query is, why waste millions of pesos to construct this concrete eyesore when there is already a road network sufficient for a place with so few vehicles, and people can wade over during low tide or cross over in small bancas as they have done for centuries.

"If this is what they call progress, then I'm out of words," says Cases, who hopes the DENR and DILG can avert this destruction to one of the most beautiful places we have left.

* * *

From the Carmelites comes the request for a plug for their solemn triduum of Masses in honor of the feast of the great Carmelite saint and the latest "Doctor of the Church," Therese of Lisieux, a.k.a. The Little Flower of Jesus, to be held for three days at the Carmelite Monastery at 4 Gilmore Ave,. Quezon City, at 6 p.m. St. Therese, whose writing, titled "Little Way," is regarded as the "surest antidote to violence and chaos," is revered for a universal spirituality that is very dignifying to all peoples. The triduum of Masses in her honor starts this Saturday, Sept. 29, with Fr. Narciso Reyes, OCD, as Mass celebrant, with the CM Juniorate Choir participating; Sunday, Sept. 30, the anniversary of the saint's death, with newly installed Bishop Socrates Villegas officiating, and the San Carlos Seminary Choir singing, and Monday, Oct. 1, the Solemnity of the Saint's feast, with Fr. Bernard Ybiernas, OCD, as celebrant, and the San Jose Seminary Choir participating. During the triduum the relic of St. Therese will be exposed for veneration, and after the Mass the blessing and distribution of the roses brought by her devotees will be held. The public is cordially invited.

From one survivor to another

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

WHAT are the chances of finding a personal connection to two of the "hottest" news events of the year—the abduction last May by the Abu Sayyaf of local and foreign tourists from the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan, and the Sept. 11 attack on the World Trade Center in New York?

Incredibly, two members of our Maryknoll College High School Class '76 found themselves linked to these events.

One of the hostages taken from Dos Palmas was Tess Medrano Ganzon, who was in the resort with husband Francis. We her classmates were not entirely surprised that she managed to escape from her captors in Lamitan, given what we know about the character of Tess, our perennial class president since kinder.

Recently, Tess sent an e-mail message to our classmate Yem Atienza Aron, whose husband Jack is counted among the missing in the WTC tragedy. Jack worked for Marsh USA, an insurance and risk management firm, which occupied seven floors of the North Tower, almost all of which were hit when the first plane crashed into the building.

I'm reprinting portions of the message below, if only to share with readers not just the awful symmetry of their experiences, but also the lessons that Tess managed to draw from her ordeal, and which we all hope will help Yem and thousands like her in the days ahead.

***

AS YOU know, last May 27, my husband and I were among 20 people kidnapped by the Abu Sayaff terrorists from the South...I spent a week in captivity and my husband remained with them for three weeks...

Our suffering is nothing close to yours as you lost your husband in an instant. But in that it was totally unexpected and will leave us and our children (we have five girls, from 13-23 years) affected for the rest of our lives is common to us...

As you mentioned in your letter, one of the things that we realize, even in this crisis, is just how many friends and kin we have who truly care for us, the passage of time notwithstanding. Our classmates that have come together on the Web to share our suffering, convey empathy and prayers, offer support in whatever form—this surely is a blessing we never realized we had in great abundance. (Gone the *barkada* groupings which seemed like such a big thing in high school!)

Another grace is the lasting imprint our Maryknoll education left in each one of us, our faith and belief in God's love and goodness and the healing power of prayer. Surely, in an age where many others imbibed an academic or theoretical Christianity (such as prayers and catechism memorized and automatically recited when called to do so), we were blessed with a religious education that centered on LOVE and LIFE, on the practice of Gospel values of understanding and forgiveness, rather than a knowledge of the Books. Today, this faith serves us well and gives us the possibility of coping with the hardships we encounter, great and small, because we have the possibility of believing in a Creator who has a blueprint of life which we may not always understand but which we nevertheless realize (in our more lucid moments) is still one drawn with Infinite Love.

* * *

AS YOU said, we need to get on with life. But know and understand that the coming days, weeks and months will have its high and low moments. Let me share a secret of survival I learned. "Live the present moment!" Don't look back with regret—the past is in God's mercy. Don't fear the hardships of the future. We don't have the grace to cope with that just yet. And it may not even happen as we imagine. But if we live one moment at a time, the grace is there to cope and live the moment well. That's how we survived those days in captivity—by not thinking of what was happening to our children, or to the business we had left behind (we're in rural banking where the people panic at the smallest news affecting us!). We prayed and truly entrusted them all to His hands, knowing that what we were not capable of doing, God is certainly able to do...

We didn't know what would happen, moment to moment. I dreaded walking through the jungles of Basilan, clad in nightclothes and rubber bathroom slippers at that...But since we never knew how long the walk would be...it lessened the fear. And when tiredness would set in, I simply told myself, "Just a little more, just a little more."

* * *

SO Yem, live one day at a time and when you're about to feel overwhelmed, tell yourself *"Konti na lang. Kaya 'ko to!* I'm not alone!" And know that truly, you and Tim will NEVER be alone. There's family, friends, old classmates even! But most of all, He'll be there for you. And surely, so will Jack from wherever Heaven is—in a way that will surpass his looking after you and Tim when he was physically around. Be sure of that.

In the two weeks of separation from Francis, not knowing whether he was going to be able to make it or not...I encountered a suffering worse than when I myself was still hostaged. I literally forced myself to go through the "normal" routine of life...But one morning, as I woke up, surrounded by the girls in my room, a wave of loneliness swept over me and I simply broke down. When that happens to you, be kind to yourself. Let the tears and the sobs come. We need the release. Then, take a deep breath, gulp down lots of cold water, say a prayer entrusting and offering everything, even that moment of suffering, to God—and you'll find the strength to get up and go on living—and loving the many people around us that need our love.

Letter from the Dalai Lama

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

THE INTERNET is bursting with posted messages, statements, reflection pieces, first-hand accounts, manifestos for signing, letters—from all over the world and from my backyard. All related to the Sept. 11 terrorist attack on the United States that killed thousands and destroyed landmarks. Some messages are so emotional and shrill they elicit responses that are emotional and shrill. Some are sober, others are very cerebral and analyze-to-death.

I can't read everything that lands in my e-mail box and I have sent many to the trash bin without reading them. I've had to unsubscribe to mail groups that have been dumping incendiary stuff in my box and even causing people to quarrel and post nasty things.

But there are stuff that come quietly and give one a feeling of serenity. One of these is the letter from the Dalai Lama, the exiled spiritual leader of Tibet. (I've seen him in person in an international human rights gathering that also featured a rock concert that had him as a special guest. How the young warmed up to him. His presence evoked quiet joy and peace.)

There are many hoaxes and fakes that circulate in cyberspace and the letter could be one of them. But I think it's genuine. It was passed on to me by a reliable source from the other side of the globe. But even if it were from some unknown citizen of this world the message would still ring the same. It is simple but profound, timely and timeless.

Dear friends around the world,

The events of this day cause every thinking person to stop their daily lives, whatever is going on in them, and to ponder deeply the Larger questions of life. We search again not only for the meaning of life, but the purpose of our individual and collective experience as we have created it and we look earnestly for ways in which we might recreate ourselves anew as a human species, so that we will never treat each other this way again.

The hour has come for us to demonstrate at the highest level our most extraordinary thought about Who We Really Are. There are two possible responses to what has occurred today. The first comes from love, the second from fear.

If we come from fear we may panic and do things—as individuals and as nations—that could only cause further damage. If we come from love, we will find refuge and strength, even as we provide it to others.

This is the moment of your ministry. This is the time of teaching. What you teach at this time, through your every word and action right now, will remain as indelible lessons in the hearts and minds of those whose lives you touch, both now, and for years to come.

We will set the course for tomorrow, today. At this hour. In this moment. **Let us seek not to pinpoint blame, but to pinpoint cause.** Unless we take this time to look at the cause of our experience, we will never remove ourselves from the experience it creates. Instead, we will forever live in fear of retribution from those within the human family who feel aggrieved, and likewise, seek retribution from them. To us the reasons are clear. We have not learned the most basic human lessons. We have not remembered the most basic human truths. We have not understood the most basic spiritual wisdom. In short, we have not been listening to God, and because we have not, we watch ourselves do ungodly things.

The message we hear from all sources of truth is clear: **We are all one. That is a message the human race has largely ignored.** Forgetting this truth is the only cause of hatred and war, and the way to remember is simply: Love, this and every moment. If we could love even those who have attacked us, and seek to understand why they have done so, what then would be our response? Yet if we meet negativity with negativity, rage with rage, attack with attack, what then will be the outcome?

These are the questions that are placed before the human race today. They are questions that we have failed to answer for thousands of years. Failure to answer them now could eliminate the need to answer them at all. If we want the beauty of the world that we have co-created to be experienced by our children and our children's children, we will have to become spiritual activists right here, right now, and cause that to happen. We must choose to be at cause in the matter.

So, talk with God today. Ask God for help, for counsel and advice. For insight and for strength and for inner peace and for deep wisdom. Ask God on this day to show us how to show up in the world in a way that will cause the world itself to change. And join all those people round the world who are praying right now, adding your Light to the Light that dispels all fear.

That is the challenge that is placed before every thinking person today. **Today the human soul asks the question: What can I do to preserve the beauty and wonder of our world and to eliminate the anger and hatred and the disparity that inevitably causes it—in that part of the world which I touch?**

Please seek to answer that question today, with all the magnificence that is You. What can you do TODAY...this very moment? A central teaching in most spiritual traditions is: What you wish to experience, provide for another. Look to see, now, what it is you wish to experience, in your own life, and in the world. Then see if there is another for whom you may be the source of that. If you wish to experience peace, provide peace for another.

If you wish to know that you are safe, cause others to know that they are safe. If you wish to better understand seemingly incomprehensible things, help another to better understand.

If you wish to heal you own sadness or anger, seek to heal the sadness or anger of another. Those others are waiting for you now. They are looking to you for guidance, for help, for courage, for strength, for understanding and for assurance at this hour. Most of all, they are looking to you for love. My religion is very simple. **My religion is kindness.**—*Dalai Lama*

Oh, dad!

YOUNGBLOOD

Carmela Siapno Fonbuena

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

MY father said I was so wrong. I wanted everything that I ended up with none. He said I was so presumptuous that I could do anything and succeed. He said I was arrogant and egoistic, I believed in myself too much. They were all insulting. As my father was giving me his sermon, I was crying. But the tears were not for the pain of the doubts and insults he cast on me. I was crying because he was right.

It was the time when I was graduating in high school and I failed to maintain my rank. I was actually numb with disbelief that I, a consistent honor student who was the school paper's editor in chief and student body officer, would be graduating without my parents going up the stage to show how proud they were of me.

I blamed it on everything and everyone that had to do with my failure. I was bitter because I was a failure and I hated the feeling. But my father was right. It was my fault entirely. I was a big disappointment.

As my father was giving his sermon, I realized just how right he had always been. He was only repeating the words he had already said to me but I never thought about them until then. If only I had listened to him.

But my father wasn't angry. He was also in pain that I felt miserable all the more. From that instant, I have learned enough to respect my father's words all the more. Over time, I have appreciated how he loves to talk. He is very opinionated and vocal at that. And his words are not baloney. His principles come from virtue.

Oh, you must not think that I revere my father so much. He is not perfect himself. Actually, when I was younger, I only looked at his imperfections that I hated him at times.

Back then, I thought him to be a mean, manipulative and egoistic fool who thought he knew everything. I hated it when he started to talk of reasons why the society is damned as if he could offer the perfect cure to all of them. He irritated me when he stuck his nose into the kind of clothes I wore or how I ate so little. I got pissed when he made fun of me. He was just so hateful that I always tried to elude his attention.

I also hated it when he drank with his friends. How could he be so noisy and domineering in their conversations? Talking didn't seem to tire him at all. And when he got home, I hated it when he vomited. The smell!

Sometimes, he was also tactless. I already said he is very opinionated. The drawback was that at times his words, no matter how true, could get offensive. But he always stood for his opinions.

With these traits, people around him had differing reactions about my father. While some people loved him for being daring and honest, some of them were not comfortable with him and the others ignored him.

Well, he hasn't changed since. But this time around, things are far different. Now, I understand so many things that I didn't use to. Now, I tend to appreciate that it is his knowledge and wisdom that he is sharing. My father just loves to tell us over and over that we are just starting to tread life's various pathways while he has gone back so many times. He says we are still discovering; he had learned it already. Not quite, but it makes sense to me.

I feel so lucky to have him for a father for the reasons I already said and for so much more.

One thing that I also learned from his attitude is to stand up for what I think. As he loves to voice out his opinions, I also add mine. When I think he's wrong, I tell him but with utmost respect. And we will engage in a little debate. But it takes some courage and certainty about my opinions before I can try to challenge what he thinks of a certain matter. Of course, I don't want my father to think I'm trying to prove myself better than he is. I only have the knowledge that my age can offer. He has gone through life back and forth.

Once, my father said I always get better after every reprimand—a pat from him.

Maybe he is right. In so many ways, my father challenges me. He is very fond of pointing it out for me to realize my mistakes. Sometimes blatantly but I guess it is okay because it seems to work for me. I am used to it anyway. He tells me why I am wrong and I cannot just hate him because, most of the time, he is just there to emphasize the obvious.

I cannot actually imagine myself having another person for a father. My father has so many flaws, but who cares? I don't need a perfect father. I can make do with mine.

Carmela Siapno Fonbuena, is a third year journalism student at the University of the Philippines.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO...?

PLDT vs. PLDT.com

TELEPHONE giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. has sued the owner of a website address dedicated to free speech for P1.35 million in damages over the use of an Internet domain name. Charged were Gerardo Kaimo and the Philippine League for Democratic Telecommunications Inc. (PLDTI), a group opposed to its metering plan. (PDI, 9/30/99)

The landmark case, filed with the Quezon City Regional Trial Court, stemmed from what the PLDT called "deceptive" use of the website address www.pldt.com, registered under the name of Kaimo, a member of the PLDTI and webmaster of the site. It argued that Internet surfers were being "diverted and lured" into Kaimo's site instead of being directed to its own corporate website at www.pldt.com.ph. But Kaimo argued that he was not engaging in unfair competition since he was not selling telephones and was not in the telecom business. He added that his "website is dedicated to free speech in the form of personal commentary, parody and satire on current events/issues, free e-mail service and an active public discussion board." Disclaimers were also displayed which distinguish it apart from PLDT. Moreover, Kaimo said that from the time he acquired the disputed domain name up to the filing of the complaint, which is a period of one year and 31 days, PLDT never raised any objection, neither did it demand that he terminate the use of said website.

Since the first hearing on Sept. 27, 1999, some hearings for the civil case were postponed and reset by Judge Reynaldo Daway of Branch 90 several times due to various motions to either cancel or reset filed by both parties on different occasions. PLDT has also filed numerous motions to correct and/or reconstruct the transcript of stenographic records.

Case status: PLDT has finished presenting its evidence. In an order issued last Sept. 10, the court has reset the hearing to a later date. Kaimo and PLDTI are set to present their side.

Armin P. Adina, PDI Research Department

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Why are LPG cylinders so costly?

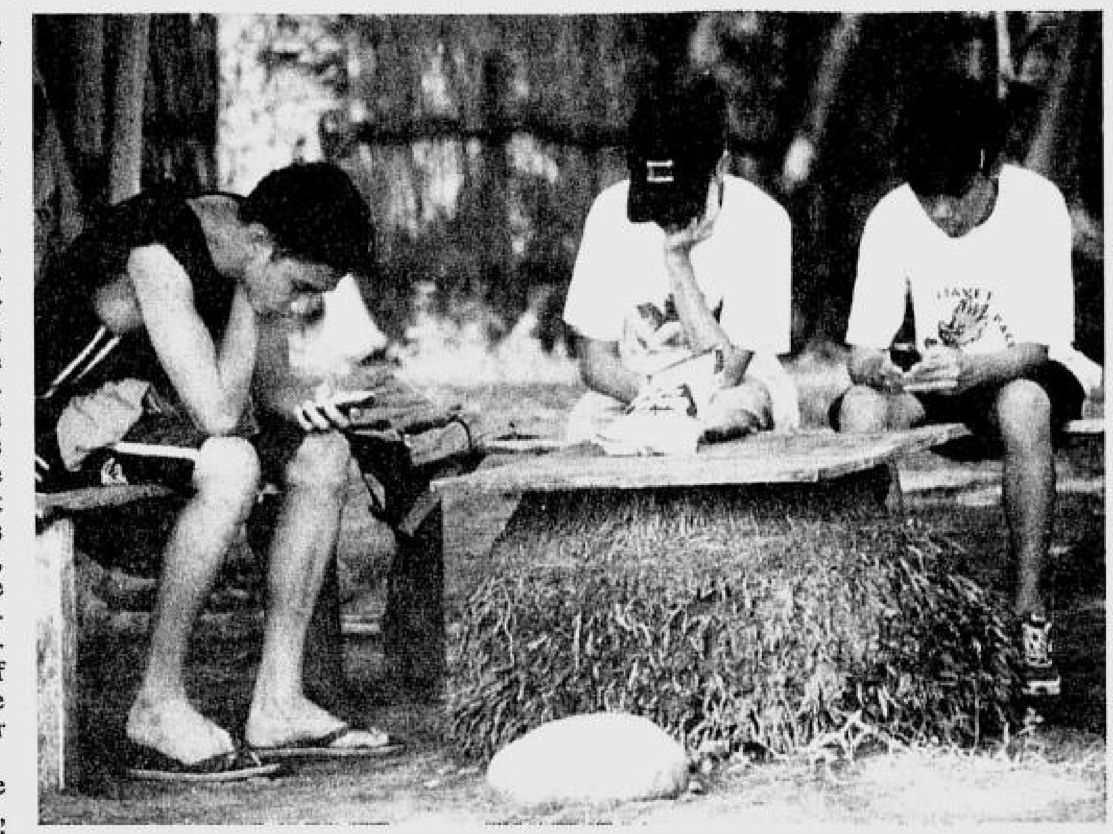
ENERGY Secretary Vince Perez appeared on TV warning the public not to buy LPG that are filled into rusty and dented cylinders, which could cause fire or an explosion. He went further and said that it is better to buy LPG in newer cylinders or containers even if the cost is a little higher, namely, Shellane, Gasul, etc. There is no problem here.

However, unknown to Secretary Perez and the general public, the "little higher cost" referred to is not that small. Ask any cylinder manufacturer, there are several of them (their name is etched in the cylinder), and they will say that their selling price for each cylinder is only P550 to P600, and including the valve brings the cost to about P700 in all. However, the oil companies and their dealers pass this on to housewives/consumers at P1,100 to P1,200 each. Imagine netting P400 on each cylinder, multiplied 250,000 times the annual order of one oil company clears P100 million on cylinders alone, without the LPG put in yet. Such a big profit center and Secretary Perez says "*hindi baleng mas mahal.*" *Ubod nga ng mahal*, sir.

Besides, the cylinder manufacturers are already making money with their products. But considering that they are using steel that are too thick (3.0 mm), while thinner ones, like 2.7 mm thickness are safe enough, cylinder cost should be much lower. People should know that LPG pressure is only 100 p.s.i. The present cylinders that are 3.0 mm thick can withstand 500 p.s.i., way too much capacity.

Needlessly, the housewife pays for the more expensive cylinders, plus the manufacturer's profit and the oil companies' and dealers' profit not only on the cylinders but also on the LPG itself. Do we wonder why the poor gets poorer?—**ALBERTO F. DEL PILAR, 1 Apo St., Suburban Heights Subd., Cainta, Rizal**

Charge cell phone calls by the second



I AM writing for and in behalf of the millions of cell phone owners who are up in protest with the recent free text controversy with giants Smart and Globe.

I think it is necessary to put things in order. Text messaging or "texting" now is a value-added service which is more of a privilege granted by both telecom companies rather than a right. Free text is a service gimmick to attract customers and clients. Therefore, both Smart and Globe have every right to decrease or stop altogether such privilege of free texting at anytime depending on their corporate decisions.

However, since the uproar is nationwide, they should extend such privilege indefinitely. Anyway, they are making enormous profits because of such gimmick. What if the Bureau of Telecommunication should redefine its policy that texting is an inherent part of cell phone operation or that Congress, because of popular demands, passes a law on that score.

Also, Smart and Globe charge cell phone calls by the minute. Do you know that if you make a one minute and one second call, you are charged or made to pay for two minutes? Paying for 59 seconds which one did not use is wrong. It is both unfair and immoral. Why should we pay for services not rendered? Add all the less-than-a-minute charge for all subscribers daily for both operators and I am sure it will run into millions of pesos worth, more than enough to compensate for the free text they give.

Texters should unite and write their representatives and senators to pass a law making texting an inherent part of cell phone operation and making operators charge by the second and not by the minute. They can count on me. I will write to my friends in Congress about this matter.—**DR. OMBRA TAMANO, MNSA, 112-C Scout Ojeda St., Brgy. Obrero, Quezon City**

Incinerators are not the answer

WE find the spate of proposals from some politicians that seek the lifting of the incineration ban under the Clean Air Act environmentally regressive. Contrary to what they say, incinerators will not eliminate the heaps of garbage in Metro Manila streets and water bodies. Instead it will exacerbate the problem by encouraging our "throw away" mentality and by eating up money that could be used for waste reduction and recovery programs. Repealing the ban will be a gross disincentive for citizens to trim down their waste volume, recycle and compost.

Building an incinerator with the same specifications as those in wealthy countries that would comply with very stringent anti-pollution standards will be extremely costly. The price for such a machine would be in the region of $810 million with a hefty portion of that amount invested in pollution control. Japan, for instance, spent $5 to $7 billion per year from 1995-1999 for the construction and improvement of waste incinerators, with a third of that amount going into pollution control devices.

There is no such thing as a non-polluting incinerator. Even the so-called "state-of-the-art" incinerators, with expensive pollution control equipment, cannot eliminate dioxin or heavy metal emissions completely. The heavy metals do not vanish but are merely transferred from the air into the ash, which then has to be dumped in a sophisticated landfill. The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reported, "Even the best (landfill) liner and leachate collection system will ultimately fail due to natural deterioration." Leftover ash is extremely toxic and its disposal can be very problematic.

We are alarmed by the ostensible ignorance of some of our politicians as regards the adverse health impacts of burning waste. A recent report by Greenpeace International points to clear evidence that incinerators discharge a virtual broth of toxic substances, and that workers at incinerator plants and people living in nearby communities are at risk of developing cancers and other serious health problems. Another report released in May 2001 by the Health Study Group in Belgium discloses that toxic emissions from waste incinerators could be seriously obstructing the sexual development of children living near incineration plants.

Instead of setting up costly incineration plants, why not use the money for waste reduction and materials recovery programs? Why not rush the construction of recycling and composting facilities all over the country? Why not use it for educating the people about the impact of wasteful consumption and the need for waste prevention and segregation at source? Why not give the money to associations and cooperatives undertaking zero waste programs to enable them to scale up their operations and benefit more people? Why not invest the money in clean production research to encourage industries to shift to non-polluting clean technologies and produce goods that can be reused, repaired, recycled or composted?

We therefore ask our mayors, representatives and senators to keep the incineration ban intact, and to push for and fund proven non-burn solutions to our burgeoning waste.—**MANNY C. CALONZO, Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives/Global Anti-Incinerator Alliance, Unit 320, Eagle Court Condominium, 26 Matalino St., Quezon City**

TFDP views not relevant in hearings

THIS is in reaction to the letter of Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (TFDP) executive director Aurora Parong (PDI,9/13/01) regarding the Senate hearings on the Lamitan incident, particularly what she referred to as "efforts" of Brig.Gen. Romeo Dominguez to discredit Fr. Cirilo Nacorda's accusations.

Remaining an officer and gentleman that he is, all the general has done was answer the accusations hurled against him in the media. It is his rights and his person that have been violated in this case.

The people in Lamitan are afraid, not of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, but of certain "forces" which keep people from testifying in favor of the officers who they know have been wrongly accused.

The TFDP has been raring to hit the AFP and appears to ride on the proven media value of the Lamitan case even if it has no relevance to the TFDP's cause. If there is a miscarriage of justice in this case, it is that the officers and soldiers are the ones on the short end of the bargain.—**REYNALDO B. MAPAGU, colonel PA (GSC), ODCSCMO, J7, AFP, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City**

Are you pure?

THE QUESTION usually comes after someone asks me what my family name is. "Tan," I say, which is received with a pregnant pause. I then feel my face being hurriedly scanned, followed by a confused look and the magic question, "Are you pure?"

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

You hear "Intsik" and you think of someone fair-skinned, maybe even "yellow-skinned" as western-constructed racial descriptions go, and the *singkit* eyes ("slit eyes," said with a bit of derision). Look at my INQUIRER mug shot and you'll see the generic description doesn't quite fit. The fact is that many ethnic Chinese are not fair-skinned and as for being *singkit*, there are degrees and variations.

Ah, but some readers may go, that's because Mike Tan isn't pure. Me, adulterated? Frankly, I really wouldn't know. For thousands of years now, humans have been intermarrying and interbreeding (the two don't always go together, I should remind you since we are on the topic of purity) so I can't imagine how anyone can figure out his or her degree of racial purity.

Yet we insist on being able to tell, even devising an amazing racial mathematics where people can tell me, with full confidence, that they are "25 percent Chinese and 75 percent Filipino." That usually means among their grandparents they have one "Chinese" and three "Filipinos." But what makes you so sure that the Chinese grandparent was indeed "100 percent Chinese," or that all the other three "Filipino" grandparents were indeed "100 percent Filipino"?

People aren't fruit juices with guarantees of being "100 percent pure," with or without genuine pulp bits. Researchers involved in the multinational Human Genome Project, which maps out our genes, point out that there's no such thing as race. They looked at genetic material from different "races" and found there were more differences among people of the same "race" than across races.

I wasn't surprised with those conclusions. "Race" is an artificial category based on how we look, and what we read into those looks. We convince ourselves there's something like Filipino and Chinese races when in fact they don't exist. The Thais think I'm Thai. In Mexico I'm Mexican and in Brazil, I'm Brazilian, Japanese Brazilian that is.

Even the apartheid regime in South Africa, for all its obsession over race, could never figure out what the word meant. Their Population Registration Act of 1950 required all South Africans to register and be classified as "white," "black" or "colored" with restrictions on the non-whites' residence and mobility. Yet there was a certain degree of arbitrariness here—if a person's physical appearance wasn't definitive, the Act provided that one could be "obviously white," determined by the person's "habits, education and speech and deportment and demeanor."

We insist on using arbitrary features to figure out "races," to draw boundaries between "us" and "them." These fictional categories can be dangerous, as we are seeing now.

Following the terrorist attacks in the States and the anti-Muslim hysteria whipped up by the press, there has been a wave of violence against "Arabs." Again, there's no such thing as an "Arab" race but people think they're able to detect them. Some of those assaulted by anti-Arab racists were in fact Indian, again showing how arbitrary racial attributions can be.

As in South Africa, the anti-Arab racism now incorporates other "clues" such as "deportment and demeanor." A former student of mine sent an e-mail describing how his stewardess friend was being harassed in the States. She works for Saudia and has to wear a head veil, which apparently identifies her as "Muslim" or "Arab" when she is neither of the two.

The paranoia grows out of cultural biases. If there is so much fear of the "Arab" and the "Muslim," it is because culture—family upbringing, media, schools—has raised us to use Muslims as scapegoats. Words and faces, become interchangeable: terrorist, extremist, Muslim, Abu Sayyaf, Osama bin Laden, Arab. The other day BBC interviewed a Muslim scholar who complained that you always hear about "Islamic extremism" and "Muslim terrorists." Yet whenever there are terrorist attacks by the Irish Republican Army, the mass media refers to them as "loyalists," "republicans" or the IRA, never as "Catholic terrorists."

"Muslim" takes on racial attributes because "race" summarizes all our fears of a faceless, invisible enemy. The concept of race sets people apart—apartheid comes from Dutch words which mean, literally, "apartness." By claiming the differences are biologically based, we can argue these are fixed, immutable, even part of a "natural order" that requires segregation.

Or special surveillance. Yesterday the INQUIRER's front page featured a story about Filipinos in Belgium being rounded up for questioning. First it's "Muslims." Then it's anyone who's "colored," anyone's who don't meet standards of racial correctness.

Our fixation over race prevents us from appreciating the diversity in cultures that do exist. We are different, and better for it, a world made more colorful with an awesome variety of languages, religions, food, clothing, music, dance. In that light, the physical differences—whether darker skin or *singkit* eyes—become part of a wonderfully chaotic diversity.

No, there's no place in civilized society to talk about racial purity. Next time someone asks if I'm pure, I'll give this answer, maybe even with a seductively *singkit* smile: "In word and deed, most of the time. In thought, not often enough, I'm afraid."

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer. com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Not an undesirable alien

I AM reacting to the items that appeared in "Cocktales" in the INQUIRER last Sept. 19 and 21, 2001. I staunchly affirm that my husband, Christopher Koruga, who is the subject of a complaint for deportation before the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation, is by no means an undesirable alien, as falsely alleged by certain quarters hostile to me. This fact will be proven by my lawyers in due time in the proper legal proceedings.

Due to circumstances beyond my control, the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation, and in particular, Commissioner Andrea Domingo, were subjected to adverse publicity in the aforesaid publications. I would like to affirm that neither the BID nor Commissioner Domingo have anything to do with our bitter family dispute. The legal issues arising from the deportation case against my husband would be better threshed out and resolved in the proper forum and through the applicable legal procedures.—**NANETTE AGUIRRE-KORUGA**

First things first, please

THE GOVERNMENT was quite proud to announce the signing of the memorandum of agreement on the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway project by the BCDA and the JBIC.

Before the motorists from the North can appreciate this future development, we urge the government, the Philippine National Construction Corp. in particular, to speed up the rehabilitation/expansion works first from the Balintawak entrance up to Bulacan.

After widening some bridges which we really think are a first priority, the project came to a standstill. Day and night and for years, the losses in terms of man-hours, fuel, missed opportunities, etc. are immeasurable.

May we hear from the responsible companies and/or government officials when these sufferings will end?—**ED SAN JUAN, Bocaue, Bulacan**

Not a San Juan policeman

THIS is a rejoinder to the news report last Sept. 14, 2001 saying that PO3 Hilario Reyes is a member of San Juan Police Station. He is not.

The report was bad to the public's perception of the San Juan police force as it imputed many things like we have some bad eggs among us and that we tolerate abusive cops and the use of drugs by our men. Again, these are not true. The San Juan Police is one of the most well-disciplined in Metro Manila and we intend to keep it that way because this is the only distinction we have from other police units.

For your information, PO3 Hilario Reyes is not a member of this Police Station. We believe that he is assigned with the Traffic Enforcement Group, MMDA at the Eastern Police District. He is not under our administrative jurisdiction.—**RODRIGO DE GRACIA, police superintendent (DSC), chief of police, San Juan Police Station, San Juan, Metro Manila**

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Only bids from entities which make, develop, fabricate, assemble, build or otherwise produce said equipment shall be entertained.

Bid documents will be available for issuance starting ***September 27, 2001*** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of ***Twenty Thousand Pesos (Php 20,000.00)*** which is not refundable. The form of payment will be in cash or cashier's check in favor of the AFP Modernization Act Trust Fund.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective bidder authorizing its representative to purchase the bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of the bid documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on ***October 11, 2001*** at ***1:00 PM*** (local time) at the *Silid Panday Pira, OJ9, 1st Floor Bulwagang Mabini, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.*

Deadline for submission of applications for eligibility statements and the bid envelopes is on ***November 05, 2001*** at ***9:00 AM*** (local time) and followed by the Opening of Bids at ***10:00 AM*** at the *Silid Panday Pira, OJ9, 1st Floor Bulwagang Mabini, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.*

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) **GREGORIO M. CAMILING, JR.**
Lieutenant General AFP
Chairman, BAC

(PDI -- Sept. 26 & 27, 2001)

The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

KABUL DEMO

Protesters vent fury on American embassy

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan—Thousands of protesters attacked the abandoned US Embassy compound in the Afghan capital yesterday, setting vehicles ablaze and ripping down the US seal above the entrance.

The violent demonstration came as US and Pakistani officials reached broad accord on a plan for attacks on bases inside Afghanistan, Pakistani sources said.

In northern Afghanistan, heavy new fighting was reported as an opposition alliance pressed on with its bid to seize territory from fighters of the Taliban, the hardline Islamic movement that governs the country.

The demonstration in the Afghan capital, Kabul, was the largest anti-American protest since the crisis sparked by the Sept. 11 terror attacks in New York and Washington. The United States' chief suspect in the attacks is Osama bin Laden, the Saudi exile who was sheltered for the past five years by the Taliban.

Shouting "Long Live Osama!" and "Death to America!" the protesters burned US flags and an effigy of US President George W. Bush before storming the old embassy compound. The building has been abandoned since 1988.

Gray smoke billowed into the sky after about five vehicles were set afire in the embassy compound, and several men used hammers to remove the large circular US seal above the front entrance. Taliban authorities eventually dispersed the protesters above the door, and the vehicle fires were put out.

Mohammed Ashraf Nadeem, a spokesperson for the opposition's northern alliance, said both sides used artillery, rocket launchers, tanks and machine guns, but that neither had managed to take over new territory.

Nadeem, reached by telephone from Kabul, said the Taliban had rushed 3,000 new troops to the region from the southern city of Kandahar. *AP*

Megawati under fire for US support

JAKARTA—As opposition to feared US strikes against Afghanistan grows in the world's most populous Muslim nation, President Megawati Sukarnoputri could face test of resolve after pledging Indonesian support for Washington's fight against terrorism.

Political analysts yesterday said Megawati would come under attack by Muslim groups when she returns this weekend from the United States where she met with President George W. Bush at the White House and visited New York. There she received promises of desperately needed economic aid in return for her support Bush's war plans.

"She is in a bind. Indonesia desperately needs a good relationship with the United States, if only for the money," said political observer, Dede Oetomo. "But if she cracks down on the Muslims, she will be seen as a lackey of the Americans."

During her absence, influential Muslim clerics at home have condemned the attacks in,New York and Washington, but said US forces must not launch revenge attacks against Afghanistan. They have accused Washington of supporting human rights abuses against Muslims in the Middle East.

Some fringe Islamic groups have vowed to send people to Afghanistan to fight on the side of the Taliban, although only a handful of people had signed up. They have also threatened to attack Americans in Indonesia and one group, the Islamic Youth Movement, threatened to kill the US ambassador if US forces take action.

There have been a number of small-scale anti-US protests in Indonesia's two largest cities. US flags and effigies of Bush have been burned.

Hundreds of demonstrators rallied yesterday in the cities of Jakarta, Bandung, Banjarmasin and Yogyakarta against possible US attacks.

Last weekend, militants went to hotels in the city of Solo, in Central Java province, searching for US citizens.

Even though about 90 percent of Indonesia's 210 million people are Muslim, it has a secular government.

However, Muslim extremism is on the rise. In the past three years, approximately 9,000 people have been killed in the eastern Maluku, or Moluccan, Islands in a religious war against Christians. *AP*

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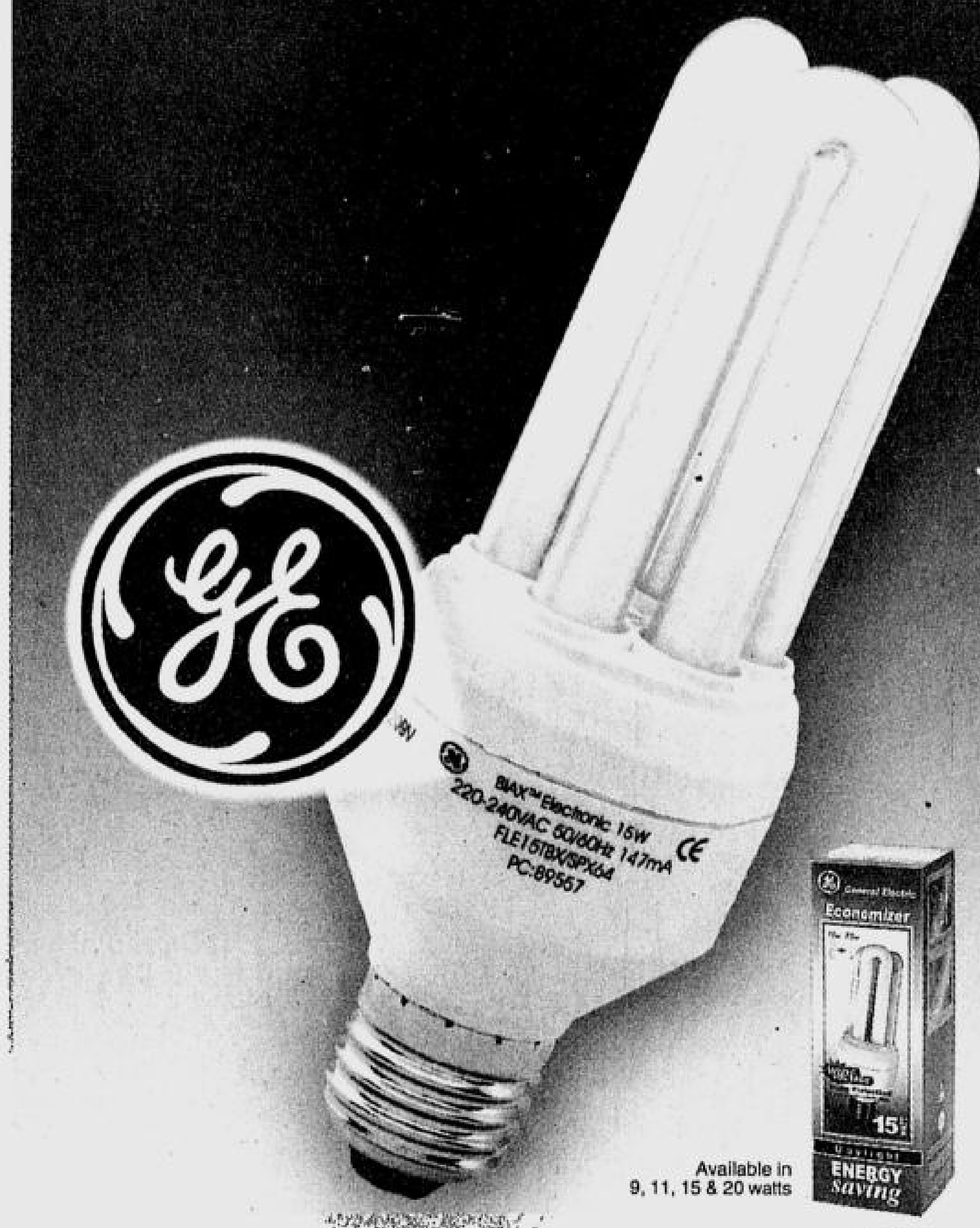

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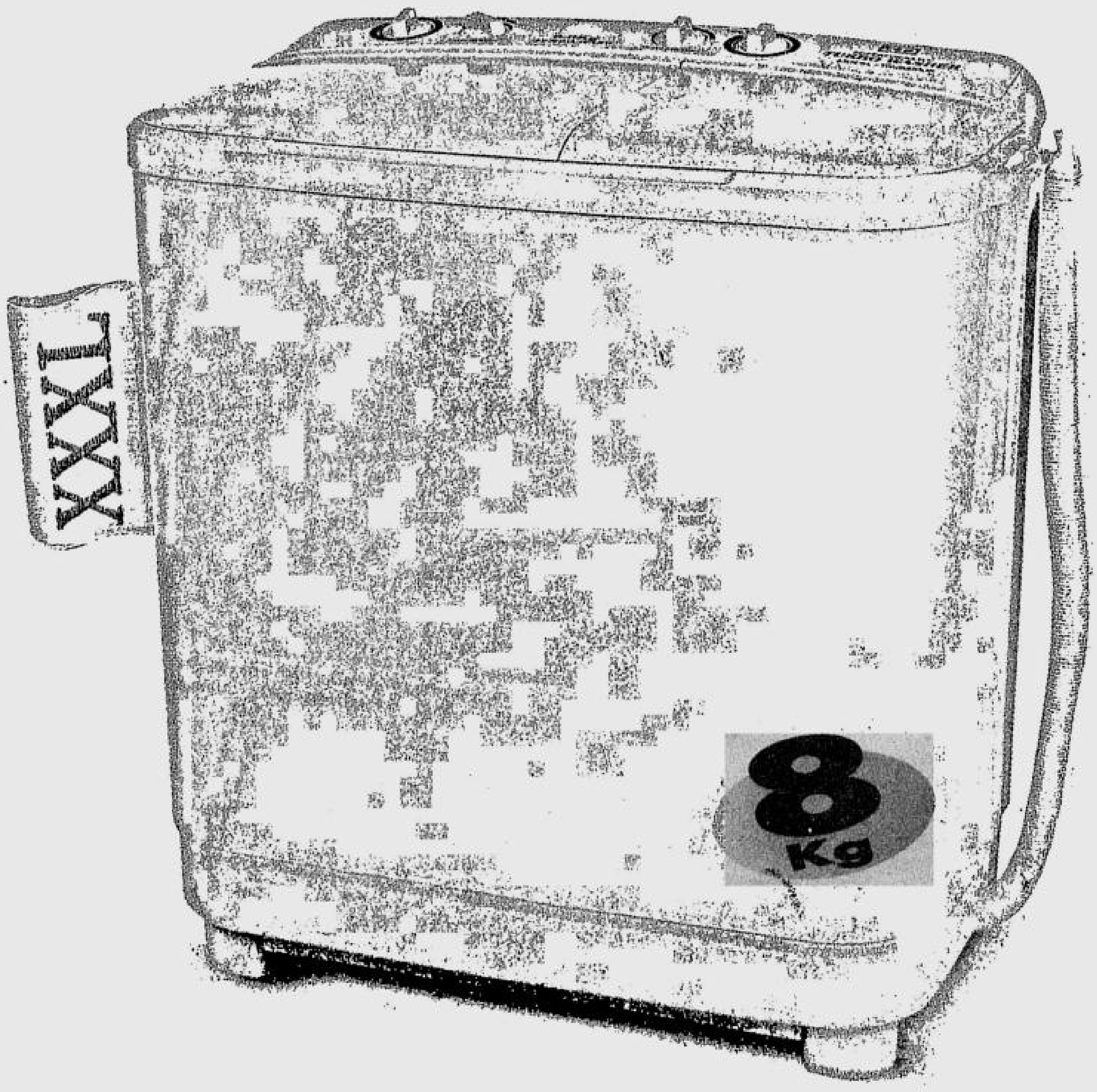

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Bush pushes for big changes in airport security

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush plans to push for sweeping changes in airport security, including armed officers on flights, as the Justice Department warns that terrorists may be plotting more destruction.

With that in mind, the House voted to divert money from Bush's missile defense program to counterterrorism efforts.

Even as the US military continued to mobilize for a strike at terrorists and a US envoy briefed Nato officials in Brussels, Belgium, the Bush administration sent last-chance overtures toward Afghanistan's Taliban militia.

Secretary of State Colin Powell said in an Associated Press interview that the Taliban rulers could avert a war with America by turning over Saudi exile Osama bin Laden, the No. 1 suspect in the Sept. 11 terror attacks, and rip up the al-Qaida terrorism network.

Bush suggested that Afghanis rise up against the Taliban. He said the best way to fight terrorism "is to ask for the cooperation of citizens within Afghanistan who may be tired of having the Taliban in place or tired of having Osama bin Laden."

The increasing pressure on the Taliban comes as federal investigators find more evidence of an international terrorist network, which may still be operating.

Attorney General John Ashcroft on Tuesday told Congress that terrorists might be planning an attack using a truck carrying hazardous chemicals. Twenty people have been charged with trying to obtain fraudulent licenses to drive tanker trucks, officials said.

Some of those arrested in connection with the tanker licenses may have connections to the hijackers, the Justice Department said.

"Terrorism is a clear and present danger to Americans today," Ashcroft told a Senate hearing.

Making the skies seem safer was an immediate concern for the Bush administration and Congress following the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, during which hijackers crashed two planes into the World Trade Center, a third into the Pentagon and a fourth in a field in southwestern Pennsylvania. More than 6,000 people were believed killed.

Bush met Tuesday with Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta to discuss airline security measures as lawmakers clamored for action.

A Bush proposal was likely to include giving the federal government a greater role in overseeing private security companies that work in airports. Bush was said to be cool to the idea of arming pilots.

The Federal Aviation Administration was advertising for air marshals—and more than 100,000 people have downloaded the application off the agency's website. The administration and Congress want to see armed marshals on most, if not all, flights.

Federal law enforcement officials from other agencies are being quickly trained and pressed into service until the new crop of marshals is hired.

Bush officials also want to replace relatively flimsy, easy-to-open, cockpit doors with something more sturdy.

The House voted in support of a $343-billion defense bill late Tuesday, boosting money to fight terrorism by $400 million, for a total of about $6 billion.

The Senate has stalled on the issue, unable to reach a vote because of attempts to attach the Bush administration's energy bill and a proposal to let private contractors compete with prison industries for defense contracts.

Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz arrived in Brussels, where he planned to present to Nato allies some of the information the United States has collected linking Bin Laden to the attacks.

A senior US official speaking on condition of anonymity said Wolfowitz would tell the allies there still was much to be learned about how the attacks were planned and who was involved. *AP*

Last WTC piece torn down

NEW YORK—The last standing piece of the World Trade Center towers—a seven-story twisted metal ruin that has come to symbolize the terrorist attacks—was torn down Tuesday and saved for possible use in a memorial.

"We're going to preserve as much of that wall as possible," Mayor Rudolph Giuliani said before workers attached cables to the structure and began bringing it to the ground. "We may be doing a memorial with some or part of that wall."

Giuliani's comments came as workers started a third week of digging through the ruins of the twin towers and as the families of the more than 6,000 victims began receiving help in paying their bills.

The mayor cited statistics showing that violent crime has plunged in the two weeks since the terrorist attack. New York is now the safest large city in America, the mayor said.

The attack on the trade center was "a once-in-our-history incident," Giuliani said. *AP*

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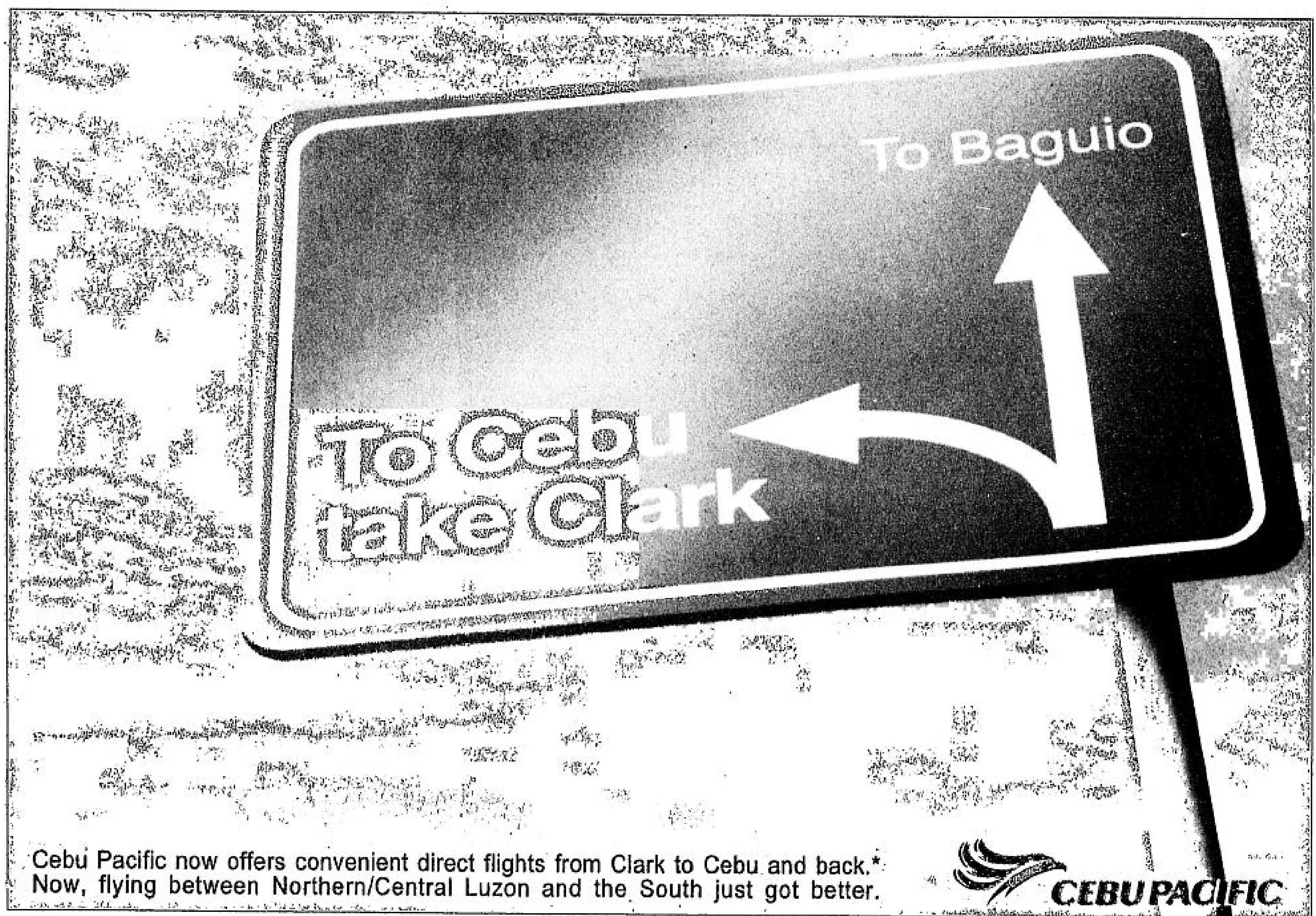

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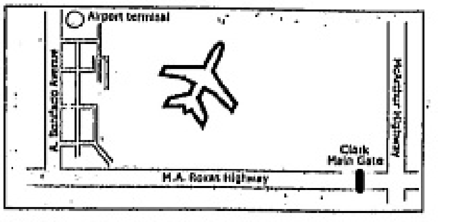

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, September 27, 2001
25th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: *Hg 1:1-8*
Gospel: *Lk 9:7-9*

King Herod heard of all that Jesus was doing and did not know what to think, for people said, "This is John, raised from the dead." Others believed that Elijah or one of the ancient prophets had come back to life. As for Herod, he said, "I had John beheaded; who is this man about whom I hear such wonders?" And he was anxious to see him.

Commentary

What is the greatest mystery in the gospel? There is no doubt: Jesus himself. Believers and non-believers ask the same question, "Who is this Jesus?" but for different reasons. Now, Herod the tetrach (governor of a fourth part of Israel) asks the same question out of curiosity. He never gets an exact account of who Jesus is. People feed him with wrong information. After a few verses, Jesus himself asks his apostles who he is. Peter will utter the correct answer. Only those who have walked with Jesus can utter such answer. Herod cannot know Jesus because he has never given him a fair hearing. He even killed John the Baptist. To know Jesus, we must be converted and constantly listen to his words.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (EVIDENCE)—Credibility of witnesses—The evaluation of the credibility of witnesses by the trial court will not be disturbed on appeal unless it is shown that it overlooked certain facts or circumstances of substance that, if considered, could have affected the results of the case. Inconsistencies as to minor details and collateral matters do not affect the credibility of the witnesses nor the veracity or weight of their testimonies. Such minor inconsistencies may even serve to strengthen their credibility as they negate any suspicion that the testimonies have been rehearsed. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Mendoza, Second Division, People v. Amazan, G.R. Nos. 136251, 138606 and 138607, January 16, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

Peres, Arafat hold much-awaited truce talks

GAZA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, Gaza Strip—In truce talks held at the urging of the United States, Israel and the Palestinians agreed yesterday on a series of confidence-building measures aimed at ending a year of fighting.

The two sides said they would resume security coordination and exert maximum efforts to enforce a ceasefire. In a first gesture, Israel was to ease security closures that have severely disrupted daily life in the Palestinian areas.

Yet violence continued even as the two leaders met, underscoring the fragility of a truce. Just five kilometers from the meeting site, a 14-year-old Palestinian boy was killed and 11 youngsters were wounded when Israeli troops fired on a crowd of stone-throwers. Earlier, three Israeli soldiers were wounded when Palestinians set off an explosion at an Army post in the same area.

Both sides approached the talks with great skepticism.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has been reluctant to allow the meeting to proceed. Sharon has portrayed Arafat as an unrepentant terrorist and said he could not be trusted. The Palestinians, in turn, have been concerned that Peres, the leading dove in Sharon's government, only has a limited mandate.

A major test of the truce will come Friday when Palestinians plan to mark the first anniversary of the fighting with marches across the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Traditionally, such marches have ended in confrontations with Israeli troops.

The United States hopes to calm the Mideast conflict, which threatens to get in the way of coalition-building efforts for the US-led fight against international terrorism.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell repeatedly called Arafat and Sharon in recent days, urging them to hold the talks. Sharon canceled two previous sessions, arguing Arafat was not trying hard enough to contain violence.

Previous truce deals, including one negotiated by CIA chief George Tenet, have collapsed. However, there were some hopes the current ceasefire would stick. Neither Sharon nor Arafat apparently wants to be seen as defying Washington at a time of crisis.

Yesterday's meeting at Gaza International Airport lasted nearly two-and-a-half hours. At the start, Peres and Arafat briefly shook hands, without smiling or looking at each other. The meeting ended with a joint statement read by Palestinian Cabinet minister Saeb Erekat.

In the statement, the leaders pledged to resume security coordination and exert maximum efforts to enforce a ceasefire, based on the terms negotiated by Tenet three months ago. At that time, the ceasefire didn't take hold.

Israel promised to ease its security closures of the Palestinian areas and redeploy forces in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, without giving a timetable.

Peres and Arafat also renewed their commitment to recommendations by the international Mitchell Commission on how to end the fighting and resume peace talks. A panel of senior officials from both sides will supervise the implementation of the ceasefire and the Mitchell recommendations, the statement said.

Peres and Arafat agreed to meet again in about a week.

The Mitchell Commission, which issued its report in May, spelled out a series of confidence-building steps the two sides would take over a period of several weeks, ahead of a resumption of peace talks.

The commission said the Palestinians should make a "100-percent effort" to prevent terrorist operations and punish perpetrators, while Israel should freeze all settlement activity and not use lethal force in dispersing unarmed Palestinian demonstrators. The commission asked Israel to lift its closures, permit Palestinians to return to their jobs in Israel and transfer to the Palestinian Authority millions of dollars in tax revenues that were withheld for the past year.

Last week, Arafat announced an informal truce and ordered his security forces to prevent attacks on Israelis. However, there have been numerous shootings since then, and two Israeli women were killed by Palestinian gunmen. A Palestinian man, who according to the Army was throwing a grenade at soldiers, was killed by Israeli fire in the same period.

Yesterday's fighting began when Palestinians set off a bomb at an Israeli Army post on the Israeli-Egyptian border in southern Gaza, a few kilometers from the Gaza airport. Three soldiers were wounded, the Army said.

After the attack, Israeli tanks fired at the nearby Rafah refugee camp, damaging homes, but causing no injuries, Palestinian security sources said. *AP*

Pope laments deaths of 1.5M Armenians

YEREVAN, Armenia—Pope John Paul II gave tribute yesterday to the vast number of Armenians who perished under Ottoman rule, one of the most painful chapters of the country's history.

"We are appalled by the terrible violence done to the Armenian people and dismayed that the world still knows such inhumanity," the Pope said in a prayer at the Tsitsernagaberd memorial complex on a hill overlooking the Armenian capital.

He spoke while sitting at the memorial's eternal flame, flanked by the Armenian Apostolic Church's leader, Catholicos Karekin II, and a phalanx of priests in black robes and cowls.

The complex commemorates an estimated 1.5 million people whom Armenia says were victims of genocide in a 1915-23 campaign to force them out of eastern Turkey. Turkey says the death count is inflated and that Armenians were killed or displaced as the Ottoman Empire tried to quell civil unrest.

Turkey has protested some countries' recognition of the deaths as genocide and the visit to the memorial presents the Pope a challenge in his efforts to promote harmony and peace.

The Pope previously has termed the deaths genocide, but has not declared any party responsible. On Wednesday, he delicately skirted the issue in delivering his prayer in English.

"Listen, O Lord, to the lament that rises from this place, to the call of the dead from the depths of the Metz Yeghern," he said, using the Armenian-language phrase for the deaths. "Yeghern" means both "genocide" and "crime" in Armenian.

"For the English-speaking public, 'genocide' would have been more explicit," said the Rev. Jirair Sogomian of the Protestant Armenian Evangelical Church in Paramus, New Jersey, who was in the audience.

The three-day trip to Armenia, following four days in Kazakstan, is putting the 81-year-old Pope's frail health to the test.

At the memorial, he sat with his head in both hands and stood with a severe stoop.

On Tuesday, during a service at the Armenian church's main cathedral in Echmiadzin, the Pope's hand trembled strongly and aides rushed to his side to offer comfort halfway through his speech. A priest finished reading John Paul's prepared text, as the Pope sat slumped on a throne on the altar. *AP*

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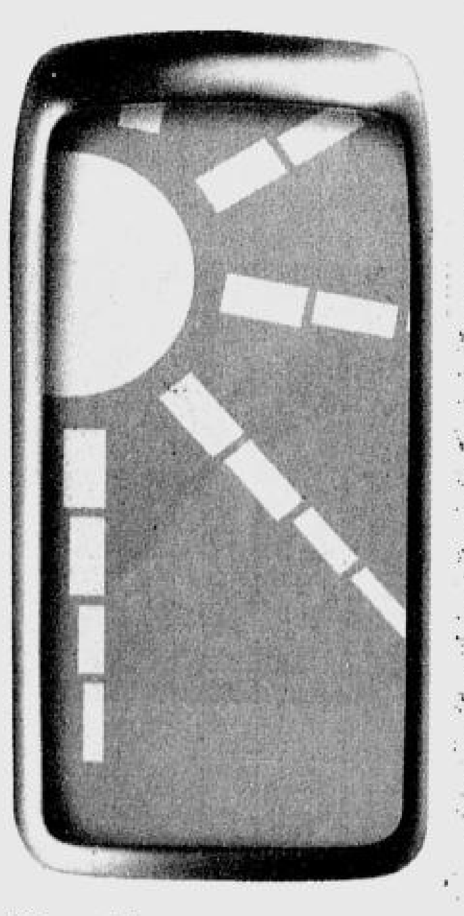

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon will continue to experience rains and gusty winds with rough seas. The rest of Northern and Western Luzon will be cloudy with occassional rains while the rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 25°
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	HI 22° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Rains with Gusty Winds	HI 30° Lo 22°
Laoag	Rains with Gusty Winds	HI 30° Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	HI 29° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 26°
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 23°
Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 24°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 26°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 26°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 34° Lo 26°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 22°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Davao	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/09/27/01

ROUNDUP

Tolosa celebrates feast

NATIVES of Tolosa, Leyte residing in Metro Manila and its suburbs will celebrate the feast day of St. Michael the Archangel with a Mass in San Pedro, Laguna on Sept. 29. Ray L. Junia, this year's *hermano mayor*, said Mass starts at 10:30 a.m. at the Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish at the Rosario Complex in San Pedro. The feast day of St. Michael the Archangel is traditionally celebrated by Tolosa folk in Metro Manila in honor of their town's patron saint. Junia said Tolosa natives in Metro Manila may call 847-4026 for details.

Barangay captain slain

COTABATO CITY—An unidentified gunman shot and killed the barangay chair of Tugal in Talayan, Maguindanao who was visiting relatives in a nearby town. The victim was identified as Sinca Mabang, who was waiting for a ride at the Makaguiling Highway in Sultan Kudarat town, when shot and killed. Also wounded was a commuter, Tohani Alba. Insp. Dicalingan Masla, Sultan Kudarat police chief, said Mabang came to visit relatives in Barangay Makaguiling when gunned down.

Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Church won't let PNOC rest

Commitment to drop Kanlaon plan urged

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

MAILUM, Bago City—Bacolod Bishop Vicente Navarra said the Church will continue its protests until the Philippine National Oil Co. issues a written commitment that it will not enter the Mt. Kanlaon Natural Park (MKNP) for geothermal exploration.

He said the Church would also continue pushing for the repeal or amendment of Republic Act 9154, the law creating a 169-hectare buffer zone within the MKNP for geothermal exploration.

The commitment was issued on Tuesday before 2,000 protesters, most of whom were students, during the culmination of a two-day camp-in protest led by the Bacolod Diocese in this barangay where the PNOC is building a 40-megawatt geothermal power plant.

The protestors offered Mass and then held a noise barrage to cap their protest action to press for the repeal of RA 9154.

In a statement issued Tuesday, the PNOC-Energy Development Corp. said Sergio Apostol, PNOC-EDC chair, already confirmed that a geothermal power plant would be built outside the park.

"All our current wells and the remaining structures that we will construct to commission the 40-MW power plant shall be located outside the park," the statement added.

On the call for the repeal of RA 9154, the PNOC said the law is a result of a 15-year legal process, which included consultations and hearings.

"We believe that the legislators ratified the bill into law because they respected the process and the sentiments of the park stakeholders," the statement said.

Mailum Barangay Captain Ruben Torres said that while the Church is protesting the geothermal operations, the people of Mailum support the project.

"If the geothermal project was bad, we would be the first to object because we are the ones who will be directly affected," he said.

The Mailum residents, Torres said, believe that the PNOC has brought progress to their barangay by building roads, putting a stop to illegal logging, addressing the needs of malnourished children.

He also said the PNOC started its reforestation project in the barangay.

The MKNP is one of the few surviving national parks in the country. It is home to a number of species of flora and fauna that are found only in the province.

The PNOC earlier planned to build wells within the buffer zone of the national park to draw steam for the 40-megawatt geothermal power plant that the PNOC is building in Barangay Mailum. But the PNOC later backed off because of massive opposition to the plan.

Navarra said the Church is not promoting trouble by leading these protests. "It is merely carrying out its tasks of ensuring that truth and justice reign," he pointed out.

The bishop said his opposition to PNOC's entry into MKNP is based on his own personal study of its implications, discernment, and prayer.

He denied insinuations that he was merely influenced by some members of the clergy branded by some sectors as leftists.

The Church fears that geothermal exploration in the buffer zone will result in the cutting of irreplaceable century old trees.

GENERAL SANTOS RAID

Kidnap suspect eludes policemen

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—One of the prime suspects in the Sept. 18 kidnapping of a businessman here was able to elude arrest in a police raid Tuesday afternoon.

Elements of the local Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) and the Anti-Kidnapping Task Force on Tuesday raided the residence of Bong Bansalao alias Commander Briks, an alleged leader of a Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) renegade command and one of the alleged masterminds in the kidnapping of businessman Clemente Uson here.

Four unidentified armed men snatched Uson Tuesday last week while he was visiting his prawn farm in Barangay Ladol, Alabel, Sarangani.

He was released unharmed by his captors on Saturday, four days after the kidnapping.

The operation was launched after Judge Oscar Noel of the Municipal Trial Court in Cities Branch 3 issued a search warrant allowing the police to raid the residence of Bansalao in Barangay Tambler here.

Police failed to arrest Commander Briks, but they were able to seize from Ruth Eugenio Bansalao, wife of the suspect, a .45 cal. pistol, several bullets, combat shoes and a military uniform.

Ruth was about to flee carrying a bag containing the firearm, bullets, fatigue uniform and combat shoes when she was trapped by policemen who cordoned the area.

Ruth said her husband is not Commander Briks, but she could not explain why her husband has a firearm, combat shoes and a fatigue uniform.

She said her husband was in Polomolok, South Cotabato visiting their farm.

The CIDG is now preparing the filing of formal charges for illegal possession of firearm and ammunition against the woman.

Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Typhoon leaves RP; boy drowns

STA. MARIA, Ilocos Sur—A two-year-old boy drowned at the height of "Typhoon Labuyo" here on Tuesday, reports from disaster response agencies said.

Strong rains and winds brought about by Labuyo, which the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) located 230 km north northwest of Itbayat, Batanes on Wednesday, also triggered landslides and floods in Ilocos Norte.

Labuyo, still packing center winds of 130 kilometers per hour, is moving northwest to Central Taiwan today at 7 kph.

Reports said the typhoon fatality, Emil James Burgonia, 2, of Barangay Poblacion Norte here, was crossing a flooded canal through an improvised wood and bamboo bridge when he slipped and fell into the water.

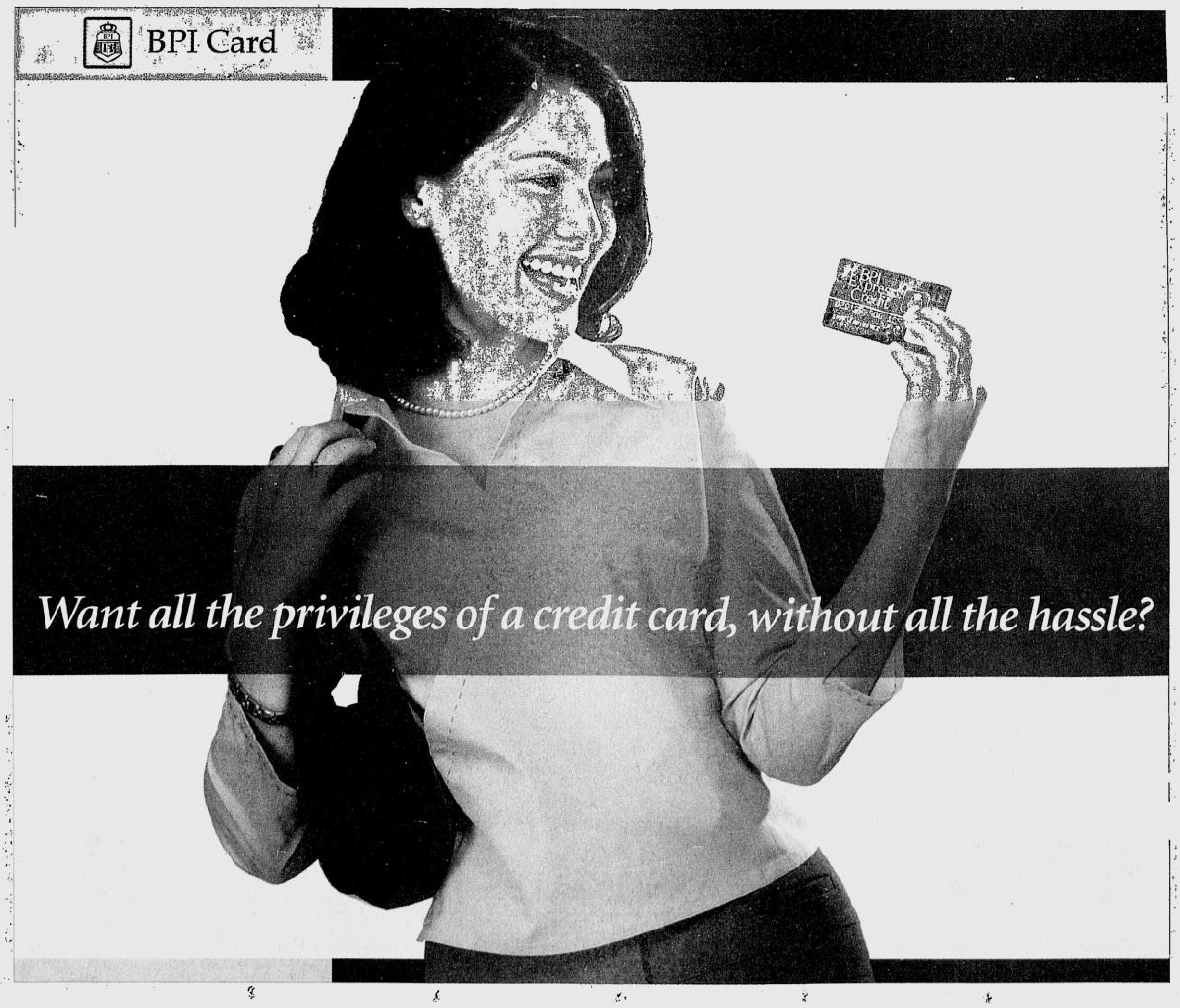
The boy's aunt and caretaker, Gloria Ramos, said before Burgonia drowned, he was playing with another boy in their house. She and her neighbors found the boy's body 10 p.m. Tuesday, 200 meters away from the makeshift bridge.

Labuyo's rains also flooded low-lying villages in many Ilocos Sur towns.

In Apayao, reports from the Cordillera regional disaster management center said continuous rains flooded 139 low-lying villages in seven towns.

Pedro Rigos, weather observer of the Pagasa in Baguio City, said rains induced by Labuyo have significantly increased the amount of rainfall in this mountain resort city since Saturday.

Leoncio Balbin Jr. with a report from Gobleth Moulic, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau



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Employers dangle benefits to keep OFWs from fleeing

DAVAO CITY—Employers in the Middle East have resorted to offering package deals and promotions to entice overseas Filipino workers into staying amid threats of war following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States.

Zenobia Caro, supervisor of Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) in Southern Mindanao, said Middle Eastern countries are generally fond of Filipino workers for their work ethics.

"In Saudi Arabia, promotions are usually given to professionals, white collar workers, and technical people," she said.

Caro said the OWWA has prepared plans to evacuate more than 1.4 million Filipino workers in the Middle East once the United States launches retaliatory attacks.

Caro said centers were set up in labor and embassy offices to provide help to OFWs should war break out.

OWWA workers will man the centers "round the clock."

"But (the) repatriation of OFWs is not yet an option," she said.

Caro said Filipinos are not inclined to leave their employers since jobs are scarce in the Philippines.

"Filipinos are generally regarded as not quitters, they (employers) have a high regard for Filipinos," she said.

Filipino workers were evacuated from Iraq and Kuwait during the Gulf War between the United States and Iraq.

The workers were supposed to receive compensation for abruptly losing their jobs at the height of the war but many are complaining that they still haven't received the promised payments.

OFWs have been hailed as the new heroes of the Philippines for their help in keeping the country's economy afloat through their dollar remittances. *Joel Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

4 provincial cop chiefs relieved over 'jueteng'

FOUR provincial police chiefs had been dismissed from their posts as a result of the Philippine National Police's drive against illegal gambling, the PNP said in a statement.

The same statement said more police officers will be relieved should they be found involved in illegal gambling.

Director General Leandro Mendoza said he gave provincial police chiefs a month to shape up and step up the fight against illegal gambling.

The statement quoted Mendoza as saying in the first seven months of the year, the PNP has reported filing 3,236 cases involving "jueteng" operations.

Mendoza said he ordered all units under his command to coordinate with Law Enforcement Coordinating Councils (LECCs) in local governments and the Church to ensure the success of the anti-gambling drive.

The PNP leadership has put in place a feedback mechanism that will monitor the performance of police officers in the field.

"This feedback mechanism involves all sectors of society, as we encourage the community to get actively involved in keeping law order," Mendoza was quoted as saying.

According to Mendoza, the PNP has conducted 23,239 raids and arrested 16,172 suspects in the first seven months of the year.

"We have filed 5,218 cases in court, and have arrested almost 100 financiers of these illegal operations," he added.

Jet stops at Mactan attract attention amid war on terror

By Connie E. Fernandez
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Unknown to many, foreign aircraft, including those of the United States, have been refueling at the Mactan Benito Ebuen Airbase (MBEAB) in Mactan Island.

Nobody took notice of these "pit stops" until the US declared war on terrorism following the Sept. 11 attack on the World Trade Center in New York and on the Pentagon in Washington.

"From time to time, airplanes from other countries like the US would drop by the airbase to refuel," said Lt. Col. Michael Manquiquis, Armed Forces Visayas Command spokesperson.

Aside from the US, four other countries have tapped the MBEAB as a refueling stop. Manquiquis identified these as Australia, Singapore, Japan and Malaysia.

Capt. Enrico Canaya, spokesperson of the airbase's Tactical Operations Command, said the foreign aircraft have been stopping over at the MBEAB either to refuel or to make emergency landings.

The most recent was on Monday when a US Airforce cargo plane from Kadena, Japan was forced to land at the MBEAB after its cargo of liquefied oxygen tanks leaked in midair.

The C-17 departed for the US Naval Base on Diego Garcia Island off the Indian Ocean about 11:15 a.m. Tuesday after its pilot, Capt. Mike Cook, and his eight crewmembers decided to stay overnight.

The American crewmembers spent the night in a hotel outside the airbase, Canaya said.

A C-17 US Air Force cargo plane makes an ordinary stop at the Mactan Air Base that was made extraordinary by a terrorist attack on the United States. TONEE DESPOJO

But Canaya said he does not expect the US Airforce to make the MBEAB a regular refueling station in the wake of the US-led global war against terrorism.

He said there are other sites that the US could use for refueling like the US Naval Base on Diego Garcia Island.

So far, only three F-18 Hornet fighter jets landed at the MBEAB to refuel since the Sept. 11 terrorist attack on the US, he added.

The fighter jets made a stop at the airbase on Sept. 20, the third batch of F-18s to do so this year.

Canaya said US cargo planes had also thrice refueled at the MBEAB since January.

These stopovers were authorized by the Department of Foreign Affairs, he said.

The governments that own the aircraft pay for the fuel.

Canaya said US pilots use credit cards to pay for the fuel.

"There is no limit (to the amount of fuel that could be loaded) as long as they can pay," he added.

During stops, crewmembers of the foreign aircraft are barred from taking aerial pictures.

Canaya said air base personnel make an ocular inspection "for security reasons" of the aircraft and their cargo.

The movement of crewmembers of these aircraft is restricted, he added. *With a report from Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Woman expresses disbelief over lover's suicide

DAVAO CITY—The woman who admitted to be the Filipino lover of American tourist Charles Williams Sens, who was found dead with a bullet wound in his head here Monday, said she could not believe the American committed suicide.

The Davao City Police Office is looking into three possible angles in the death of the American. One of them is suicide.

Police are also looking into love triangle and possible involvement of a third party, like gambling partners, as possible angles in the death.

The American, prior to his death, was regularly seen in the casino here.

The woman, who only identified herself as Aida, said she only learned of the American's death Monday night when she called up the Waterfront Insular Hotel where Sens stayed since Aug. 26.

She said she was with Sens Sunday morning and was told to return to the hotel around 7:30 p.m. Monday.

Aida said she could not recall Sens being unhappy with his life that could have prompted him to end his life.

Aida said she met Sens the day the victim arrived in the city and they became lovers.

She also claimed that Sens even promised to marry her. *Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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‘America created evil attacking it’

(From page A1)

not be surrendered to US authorities, and that the Taliban was prepared for war.

"This is not just an issue of Osama bin Laden," Omar said, according to portions of the interview posted in English on the VOA website.

"This is an issue of Islam, Islam throughout the world. Islam's prestige is at stake; so is Afghan tradition," he said, speaking by telephone from Afghanistan to a VOA reporter in Washington, D.C.

Omar said the Taliban could not deliver their "guest" Bin Laden to the United States because "if we did, it would mean we are not Muslims . . . that Islam is finished."

He explained: "Consider our point of view: If we give Osama away today, Muslims who are now pleading to give him up would then be reviling us for giving him up. . . . The very same people would be asking: Why did you sacrifice the prestige of Islam? Why did you bring shame on Muslims?"

Omar said, "If we were afraid of attack, we could have surrendered him the last time we were threatened and attacked. So America can hit us again, and this time we don't even have a friend."

‘Not strong enough’

But the Taliban leader also said that despite the formidable might of the United States, it would not be able to win a military conflict with the fundamentalist Islamic militia.

"In terms of worldly affairs, America is very strong," he said. "But even if it were twice as strong, or twice that, it would not be strong enough to defeat us. We are confident that no one can harm us if God is with us."

Omar, a former comrade-in-arms of Bin Laden, accused America of controlling and corrupting Muslim governments and replacing Islamic law with "secular law."

"The Muslims . . . know they can't do anything about it . . . so they kill themselves in suicide attacks. They no longer want life on this earth," he said.

‘How to end evil’

"Let me tell you something," he said. "Americans will not be able to prevent such acts like the one that has just occurred because America has taken Islam hostage.

"If the US really wants to end this evil, it knows how to do it. It should end its virtual grip on Islam. It should let go. Then it would be relieved forever and the rest of the world can go about its business."

Asked to explain what he meant by saying "America has taken the Islamic world hostage," Omar answered: "America controls the governments of the Islamic countries . . . The people ask to follow Islam, but the governments do not listen.

"The people are powerless against their governments because they are in the grip of the United States. (The governments) become corrupt and ignore the people.

"If someone follows the path of Islam, the government arrests him, tortures him or kills him. This is the doing of America. If it stops supporting those governments and lets the people deal with them, then such things won't happen."

Reacting to US President George W. Bush's declaration of war on terrorism, Omar said he was considering "two promises."

"One is the promise of God. The other is that of Bush. The promise of God is that my land is vast. If you start a journey on God's path, you can reside anywhere on this earth and will be protected . . .

"The promise of Bush is that there is no place on earth where you can hide that I cannot find you. We will see which one of these two promises is fulfilled . . .

"Great issues lie ahead. But we depend on God's mercy. This may appear to be a moment of certainty for us, but God's mercy is with the Muslims," he said. *With a report from AFP*

Censorship spoils VOA ‘world scoop’

(From page A1)

appropriate for the Voice of America to broadcast the "Voice of the Taliban."

The decision sparked an outcry among its own journalists. "It was flat-out censorship," said an employee who was one of more than 100 VOA journalists to sign a letter that said the move had damaged their credibility and put the integrity of VOA "at stake."

"I was stunned, absolutely stunned," said another VOA journalist quoted by the Washington Post. "It goes against every principle of journalistic ethics."

On Tuesday, VOA changed its mind, defied the US state department, and aired the piece with minor revisions.

"We went ahead and ran it," the first VOA employee said of the four-minute piece which included portions of the 12-minute interview with Omar that the broadcaster had shelved last week after the department's objections.

The report, about reactions to US President George W. Bush's speech to Congress after the Sept. 11 terrorist strikes in the United States, was supposed to have been beamed to listeners in Afghanistan, according to the Washington Post, which first broke the story on the gag order.

Statistics last year showed 45 percent of Afghanistan's population listened to the US shortwave broadcasting organization.

The state department on Friday objected to VOA airing the report because it contained the voice of Omar.

"We didn't think that the American taxpayer, the Voice of America, should be broadcasting the Voice of the Taliban," state department spokesperson Richard Boucher said on Monday.

Pressure from US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage and other officials—who approached members of the board with their opposition—resulted in the VOA decision not to air the report on Friday.

Although VOA is funded by the US Congress, its editorial independence is guaranteed by its charter and many VOA journalists were outraged at the intervention.

Dismayed

But Boucher rejected accusations of censorship.

"We recognize the independence of the Voice of America," he said on Monday. "Its charter says that they should explain US government policy and present responsible discussion about it. We don't consider Mullah Omar to be responsible discussion."

"Obviously, we are dismayed that they chose to ignore our recommendation," a senior state department official said, adding that VOA's governing board, on which the department has a seat, would almost certainly review the matter.

A spokesperson for VOA said Monday that it had never intended to air Omar's entire interview, but rather to include portions of it in a broader piece on Afghanistan.

In addition to a review of the case by VOA's governing board, the broadcaster is expected to face harsh questioning from US lawmakers who have the final say over its funding.

Many have complained about interviews VOA has aired in the past with controversial figures in the Middle East peace process.

The VOA board is composed of four Democrats, four Republicans and a state department official. *With a report from AFP*

Top US Navy officer secretly visits Subic

(From page A1)

is responsible for the world's largest combined fleet command. He has authority over more than 190 ships and submarines, 1,400 aircraft, 191,000 sailors and Marines and 30,000 civilians.

Fargo's arrival was unannounced. Not even the Department of Foreign Affairs was aware that he was in the country. The DFA reportedly made hurried phone calls to Subic to confirm the admiral's arrival.

Though the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States were the "subject of light talks" during the dinner, the SBMA source said Fargo did not delve into the US' plans to utilize its former military bases in Subic and Clark Air Base for the global campaign against terrorism.

The source dismissed reports that "high-level talks" were held, stressing that Fargo was involved only in a "completely social dinner" that lasted for more than two hours.

The source declined to say if Fargo and Golez engaged in an after-dinner meeting on policy matters on national security or on the use of the former US bases.

But both Golez and Fargo were confirmed to have stayed in Subic until Wednesday morning.

Meeting with mayor

Fargo was known to have done only one other thing while in the country. He discreetly motored out of the Subic Bay Freeport Zone to pay a courtesy call on Olongapo City Mayor Katherine Gordon.

Gordon confirmed to the INQUIRER that he met with Fargo. The meeting between the two was held behind closed doors, another source in Olongapo City said. But the mayor said, "It was a purely social call."

As quietly as he arrived, Fargo flew out of Subic early Wednesday morning, the SBMA source said.

US presence

In Clark, at least 12 American military personnel arrived on Monday, although the US military has cut short and canceled all Visiting Forces Agreement-related military exercises with the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Sources at the Holiday Inn Clark Field confirmed that some of their guests were US military personnel. But hotel officials declined to tell the INQUIRER the details of the their guests' hotel reservations.

Officials of the Presidential Commission on the VFA (VFACOM) said they had no knowledge of the supposed entry of American military personnel in Clark and reiterated that VFA-related exercises had been canceled.

Michael Jordan, 38, announces comeback

(From page A1)

"I am returning as a player to the game I love," said Jordan, 38, and three years removed from what seemed to be a storybook ending to an unparalleled career. "I am especially excited about the Washington Wizards, and I'm convinced we have the foundation on which to build a playoff-contention team.

"The opportunity to teach our young players and help them elevate their game to a higher level, and to thank the fans in Washington for their loyalty and support, strongly influenced my decision," he said in a statement issued through his management agency.

The five-time league MVP, who retired for a second time in 1999 after leading the Chicago Bulls to their sixth title of the decade, made it official after clearing up a licensing issue with one of his sponsors—a disagreement that delayed the announcement by a day. NBA rules also required Jordan to sell his ownership stake in the Wizards.

Jordan never completely ruled out a comeback when he retired in January 1999, hedging his bets with the statement that he was "99.9 percent" certain he would never play again. Leaving the door open, even by one-tenth of one percent, meant Jordan could slip back into a uniform without going back on his word.

Now, he has.

Jordan's announcement was sure to hearten a city—and an entire country—shocked by terrorism. Washington's economy has suffered since the Sept. 11 attacks, with the Reagan National Airport remaining closed and hotel bookings far below capacity.

$10-B impact

With Jordan having had a $10-billion impact on the US economy, according to Fortune magazine, his return could help fuel a flagging economy as well as bring joy to US sports fans.

His regular-season debut will be Oct. 30 at Madison Square Garden against the New York Knicks, and his first home game for the Wizards will be Nov. 3 against Allen Iverson and the Philadelphia 76ers.

Jordan has been in training for about six months, at first saying he was simply trying to lose the extra weight he had gained in retirement. Inspired by his friend Mario Lemieux's successful comeback with the Pittsburgh Penguins, Jordan rigorously worked himself into playing shape during the summer by holding several invitation-only camps of pickup games with other NBA players at a gym in Chicago.

Jordan's first official practice with the Wizards will be on Oct. 2, when training camp opens in Wilmington, North Carolina.

He occasionally worked out with the team last season when he was president of basketball operations, a job he used to almost completely overhaul Washington's roster and put the team into a rebuilding mode.

His supporting cast will include the likes of Jahidi White, Richard Hamilton and Courtney Alexander—none of whom were in the NBA when Jordan played for the Bulls.

Turning a team that won only 19 games last season into a winner might be an insurmountable challenge—even for Jordan.

"I think he will return to being one of the top players in our league. His comeback certainly puts the Wizards in a position to make the playoffs this year," Knicks coach Jeff Van Gundy said.

With his announcement, Jordan immediately overshadowed the arrival in Washington of another winter sports star, Jaromir Jagr. The NHL's leading scorer last season was acquired by the Capitals in the off-season.

Jordan actually owned a piece of the Capitals, buying it when he acquired shares in the Wizards on Jan. 19, 2000.

Completed

The paperwork to sell his stake in both teams was completed Friday, and Jordan's lawyers ironed out the last few wrinkles to clear the way for his comeback announcement.

The final holdup involved the video game licensing rights to Jordan's likeness, according to Jeff Brown of EA Sports, a game manufacturer.

Jordan suffered three physical setbacks during the summer, raising doubts about whether his body could endure the rigors of an 82-game schedule. Back spasms and knee tendinitis curtailed his workouts, and two cracked ribs from a collision in a pickup game took him off the court for a month.

Jordan will return without the all-star cast that he hoped would accompany him. Charles Barkley, who spoke of playing with Jordan, abandoned his comeback bid, and the Wizards were unable to sign any marquee players.

Jordan won 10 scoring titles and is the NBA's fourth all-time leading scorer with 29,277 points. He averaged a league-record of 31.5 points per regular season game throughout his career and 33.4 in the playoffs.

Jordan's first retirement came in October 1993, after he led the Bulls to three titles. He played baseball in the Chicago White Sox organization for one season, but he couldn't make it out of the minor leagues and returned to the Bulls in March 1995.

Jordan led the Bulls to three more titles, and retired again in January 1999, shortly before the start of the lockout-shortened season. He made his final shot in a Chicago uniform, sinking a jumper over Bryon Russell of Utah in Game 6 of the 1998 NBA Finals—a play that came to be known as Jordan's "last shot"—to give the Bulls their sixth title of the decade.

"While nothing can take away from the past," Jordan said, "I am firmly focused on the future and the competitive challenge ahead of me." *Reports from AP and AFP*

Acop incurs senators' ire

(From page A1)

the Senate blue ribbon panel, warned him.

In the course of the four-hour joint-panel hearing, four other senators echoed Arroyo's warning, but Acop maintained that the money came from his personal account.

He was reacting to Ong's claims that he handed her the check on Oct. 10, 1998 to be used as "show money" in an undercover operation to purchase illegal drugs from a Hong Kong triad. She claimed police agents later recycled and sold the drugs.

Acop has said the money was meant to bail out Ong, who at the time was supposedly facing foreclosure on mortgaged property.

Ong said the check was never cashed after Acop's group allegedly opted to use the money, which she said came from a gambling lord.

Acop said he had intended to have his money reimbursed by taking P2 million from the P7.5 million worth of pork barrel funds of Sen. Vicente Sotto III. Sotto had allocated the money, taken from his Congressional Discretionary Fund (CDF), to finance an anti-drug operation code-named Oplan Athena.

"I issued a personal check to make it appear as if it were a personal favor because she might not pay it back if she knows it came from public funds," Acop said.

Sen. Renato Cayetano said Acop could be found liable for misusing public funds. "It's a very serious matter, considering he admitted using money for personal purposes," he said.

Arroyo said he found it puzzling that Acop, who headed the Narcom from August 1997 to August 1999, wanted to help Ong when he was no longer head of the narcotics group.

Generous

"I find it unusual. Why so generous, when you had no official connection to Ong anymore?" Arroyo asked.

Toward the end of the hearing, Ong also admitted receiving a check for P100,000 from Acop, drawn from the same UCPB bank in San Juan as the other check.

Acop admitted giving her the check, saying he did so to bail her out of her gambling problems. He said the check was cashed by a Mario San Victores.

"Are you that rich, that you can give P100,000 to bail out (someone who) loses in gambling?" asked Sen. Aguilino Pimentel Jr.

But Acop replied that the money was again "part of the P7.5-million CDF fund of Senator Sotto which we turned into intelligence funds."

This prompted Pimentel to exclaim: "My goodness, you can use intelligence fund to (pay for the) gambling losses of a private person. I think there is a dangerous trend here."

He then asked that the Senate panel move to secure a certified copy of the transactions of Acop at the UCPB. But Acop objected to this, saying that the banks already issued a certification indicating that the P2-million check was never cashed.

Pimentel, however, pursued his proposal, saying that he did not want to take Acop's word for it.

Ask his wife

Following a barrage of further questions, Acop said that he did not know the details of his account because his wife managed it.

Senators Arroyo, Barbers, Cayetano and Rodolfo Biazon also needled Acop for failing to clamp down on the operations of the Hong Kong triads while he was Narcom chief—something no Narcom chief has been able to do.

They also roasted him over the coals for him being evasive in answering the question of why he did not name local drug lords and their protectors in government in his report to the Senate.

"You have not mentioned a single Filipino official who was accountable. They're all foreigners," one senator said, pointing out that all those named by Acop appeared to be Chinese nationals.

Acop said the agency opted to train its guns on Chinese triad members who "operated freely in the Philippines."

In his report to the Senate, Acop said that the triad members were protected by "troubleshooters" at the PNP, the Department of Justice, the Bureau of Immigration, Land Transportation Office and travel agencies.

He said the triads employed the "ablest lawyers and PR doctors," but declined to name them.

Solons urge gov't to protest police raids in Belgium

(From page A1)

The DFA said the Belgian police were just doing their job of checking out alleged illegal aliens in the light of the global terrorism alert.

"There is no indication this is directed at any specific group, particularly Filipinos, because we have no history of being on the wrong side of the law in Belgium," DFA spokesperson Victoriano Lecaros said at a news briefing.

He pointed out that Belgium had "stringent" anti-racist laws.

Migrante International chair Leo Legaspi, who had reported the roundup, noted that while the DFA should lodge a diplomatic protest with the Belgian Embassy, it had "even defended the raids and arrest of our fellow Filipinos."

"The DFA claims the police raids were routine, but some of the Filipinos arrested said it was the first time it happened in their 10-year stay in that country," he said.

Legaspi said among those rounded up were professionals in the medical and information technology fields, and the others were members of non-government organizations.

The fact that the headquarters of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (Nato) is located in Brussels is one of the reasons behind the raids, he said.

Belgium, headed by Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt, is also president of the European Union.

Eye-opener

Lecaros said the roundup of the 30 Filipino men, women and children in Brussels should serve as an "eye-opener" for Filipinos abroad in view of the security alert worldwide following the Sept. 11 attacks in America.

"We (Filipinos) perhaps should be more vigilant and conscious of the heightened concern in their host countries," he said. "It wouldn't be a bad idea if they be vigilant themselves—that is, don't do anything untoward to attract attention."

Lecaros, however, said it was doubtful that the Filipinos were maltreated while in detention.

"They could not leave their children behind, could they?" he said when asked why the police also brought in the children for questioning.

Asked how the DFA could protect Filipinos abroad from racist attacks, Lecaros said: "With the increased anxiety around the world, it's not surprising that some people might get overzealous with their duties.

"We are not condoning (human rights) violations, but we must put everything in perspective. So we have to be mindful of the law."

Lecaros said authorities in Brussels had not informed the Philippine Embassy there about the detention.

The embassy apparently learned about it from the Filipino community only after two of the Filipinos were deported and the others released.

Nonetheless, it confirmed that around 30 Filipinos were questioned, two of whom were later escorted out of that country. One of them had been asked before to leave Belgium for lack of proper travel documents, it said.

When asked by the DFA for an explanation, the Belgian Embassy in Manila said there was "nothing extraordinary" about the roundup except that it came on the heels of the Sept. 11 attacks.

The embassy said Brussels police had the right to question foreigners about their immigration status because a million, or 10 percent, of the population in Belgium were foreigners.

It also supposedly explained that other nationals, not just Filipinos, were also questioned as part of Belgium's increased security vigilance.

The Philippine Embassy in Canada, meanwhile, was told to verify film director Joel Lamangan's claim that he was detained for more than an hour and strip-searched by immigration authorities at the Toronto international airport.

Outrage

Beltran said the roundup was an "international outrage."

"The Philippine government should insist that the Belgian authorities, even the king of Belgium himself, apologize to the Filipinos they locked up and maltreated," he said.

He noted that it took an NGO, Migrante International, to report the arrests.

"Who knows what other indignities our fellow Filipinos are being subjected to in Belgium or in other countries in Europe where there is a resurgence of racism?" he said.

Beltran pointed out that the Sept. 20 incident was similar to the prejudice suffered by Middle Easterners and Muslim Filipinos in the hands of the Philippine military and police.

"We should not encourage stereotypes and racial discrimination," he said. "Police and other law-enforcement groups should not exhibit the usual ignorance of labeling anyone with Middle-Eastern features or surnames as terrorist, and then hauling them off to be fingerprinted and detained."

Negros Occidental Rep. Apolinario Lozada, chair of the House committee on foreign relations, said that "for supporting the new war (on terrorism), this is what our people get—to be subject to harassment, discriminated against, and treated as lower species."

"Just because the Philippines was tagged as part of (suspected terrorist) Osama bin Laden's terrorist network does not make all 76 million Filipinos terrorists," he said.

Lozada also said the war against terrorism did not justify the dawn raids.

He said that while he understood the need to fight terrorism, members of the US-led coalition should not forget to respect the rights of people, regardless of nationality.

Lozada is representing the Philippines at the 56th general assembly of the United Nations on Oct. 3.

Alarm

At the Episcopalian Cathedral in Baguio City, Migrante International secretary general Poe Gratela said the roundup of the Filipinos was a result of the US-led war against terrorism.

"The incident is alarming because it means that US allies are heeding US President George W. Bush's call for a borderless war. Brussels is the center of Nato," he said at a forum yesterday on overseas Filipino workers.

Gratela said there were about 2 million Filipino workers in Europe and the Middle East.

"But it's not only the Filipinos who are being targeted by this new drive against so-called terrorists. We see a worldwide violation of human rights among migrants from the Third World," he said. *With reports from Volt Contreras and Andrea Trinidad-Echavez in Manila; Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau; Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Filipinos form part . . .

(From page A1)

resolution which, among others, requested information "on bases and training camps of international terrorists in Afghanistan."

A copy of the report has been relayed to Manila by the Philippine mission to the United Nations.

The report said at least 50 Filipinos were recently trained in one of the 55 camps and bases being maintained in Afghanistan by Osama bin Laden, the prime suspect in the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington that claimed the lives of more than 6,000 people.

Sought for comment, the spokesperson of the Armed Forces of the Philippines said the intelligence community was still verifying whether the 50 Filipinos had returned to the Philippines.

Charasyaba camp

"In Charasyaba there are several hundred fighters from Arab countries, 50 Filipinos and 40 Uigurs," the report said.

It noted that Charasyaba, near the Afghan capital of Kabul, was "used for technical support and repair of weapons."

The Russian report did not indicate whether the Filipinos in Charasyaba were members of either the extremist Abu Sayyaf or the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

But Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said in July that at least 50 suspected members of the bandit and terrorist group Abu Sayyaf were undergoing training in Afghanistan.

Biazon said the information was relayed to him by former Philippine Ambassador to Thailand Reynaldo Arcilla, a member of the UN mission to Afghanistan.

During the Afghan war in the 1980s, Muslim Filipinos went to the Central Asian country to help fight the invading forces of the then Soviet Union.

One of the Afghan veterans was Abdurajak Janjalani, who later founded the Abu Sayyaf, one of the terrorist groups identified by US President George W. Bush as having ties to Bin Laden.

A number of MILF commanders also trained in Afghanistan and fought in the war.

Instructors

The Russian report said the instructors in the training camps and bases also came from Libya, Tunisia, Egypt, Yemen, Iraq, the former Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria.

In Manila, copies of the report were given to Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes; Maj. Gen. Virgilio Tutanes, AFP deputy chief of staff for intelligence; and Col. Victor Corpus, chief of the Intelligence Service of the AFP.

Asked if Filipinos would be among those who might fight US-led forces along with the Taliban, Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan, AFP spokesperson, said "the call of Bin Laden is for all supporters to rally behind him to fight America and its allies."

Adan said it was possible that some Muslim Filipinos, who had fought the Philippine government and had been indoctrinated that Western ways are bad, might be enticed to join.

He said the report on the 50 Filipinos confirmed "that local terrorist groups maintain linkages with the extremists."

Adan noted that Bin Laden, who came from a wealthy family in Saudi Arabia, "has money to support this (training) activity and many of these poor, misled and uneducated Muslim Filipinos might be preyed upon by extremist terrorist recruiters."

Adan, however, tried to downplay the significance of the Russian report, claiming it "has not been confirmed by our government."

"I don't think this is accurate but we will check," he said. ***With a report from Julie Alipala-Inot, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

New York's rescue . . .

(From page A1)

Five people were pulled out alive on Sept. 12. Since then the 1,500 rescue workers and their 50-odd dogs have found only bodies—287 of them. A further 6,347 people are still confirmed missing in the ruins and may never be found.

"The condition of the bodies is terrible. Most of the time we only find pieces, bones, skulls," said a rescue worker, exhausted after a night trawling through the smoldering mountain of twisted steel and concrete debris.

Crossing and recrossing the six-acre wreckage in the rain, the dogs are suffering physically and emotionally. Many have had to be treated for cut feet and breathing difficulties, while the persistent failure to find survivors is getting to humans and canines alike.

"The dogs are good, they're professionals. But like any professional they can suffer from melancholy and depression. It's hard for the men not to find anyone and the dogs sense that. It's a very difficult situation," Wyler said.

Once in a while the handlers try to lift their animals' spirits by hiding under blankets or sheets of cardboard and letting the dogs find them.

"The only thing that we can do is give them a lot of love and affection from their handlers, a lot of praise, a lot of encouragement," Wyler said. ***AFP***

GMA bares '14-pillar policy'

(From page A1)

unfold," the President said at a luncheon marking the 40th anniversary of the Philippine Constitution Association. "We must therefore make preparations for quick response and long-term management. But one thing is sure—we are determined to go all the way if our security and survival demand it."

She appointed Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, head of the Cabinet oversight committee on internal security, to oversee "our response to the war against terrorism."

Romulo later said he and the agencies concerned would "immediately convene" to discuss the action plan involving 14 entities, including Congress, and practically the entire government structure down to the barangay level.

But he could not say how much money would be realigned to fund it.

Romulo's job is similar to that of the Office of Homeland Security, which US President George W. Bush formed in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks in New York and Washington.

The President chose the Philconsa forum to announce her anti-terrorism plan to underscore that it would be undertaken within the bounds of the Constitution.

She said she would seek Congress' concurrence if and when the ICTC requested Filipino combat troops.

She also said that she would go to Congress if money would be needed, but that she had authorized the military and police to recommend fund realignments.

Extraordinary

New US Charge d'Affaires Bob Fitts, one of the guests at the Philconsa luncheon at the Inter-Continental Hotel, described the action plan as "an extraordinary, responsible policy."

"I certainly welcome it, particularly the President's emphasis on not only assisting the global coalition but also focusing energies domestically, on the Philippines' own problems, because that is what all members of the coalition (should do)," Fitts told reporters.

He said that the President's speech "struck the right note," and that he had asked National Security Adviser Roilo Golez for a copy so he could transmit it to Washington.

The President said the Philippines would undertake six specific measures to "actively implement" the United Nations Security Council's Resolution No. 1368, which calls on UN member-states to join the war against terrorism.

These are:

- To join the ICTC and work with America.
- To work closely with America on intelligence and security matters concerning terrorism.
- To make available Philippine air space and facilities when these are required as transit or staging points
- To contribute logistical support in the form of food supply, medicines and medical personnel.
- Subject to the concurrence of the Philippine Congress, to provide combat troops if there is an international call for such troops
- To prevent the flow of funds to terrorist groups in the Philippines by passing and implementing the anti-money laundering law.

The President said that with this "strong and formidable" action plan, the Philippines could protect itself while actively supporting the ICTC.

"In our own land, we shall defeat terrorism on our own terms with our own hands and in line with our own national vision," she said, adding:

"In this quest we shall be guided by the high principles of universality with the free and civilized world, drawing our stamina from the unity of all Filipinos wherever they may be, regardless of religion, creed and ethnic origin or social station."

The President stressed that the impact of the Philippine contribution to the anti-terrorism war would be measured to a greater degree not by its contribution to the ICTC but by its achievements on the home front.

"We must never lose sight of our immediate and overriding objective—identify the terrorists within our country, map out their networks, stop them and destroy their cause," she said.

She added that "in this war, as in any modern enterprise, we must think globally but act locally."

Different

According to Golez, the Philippine situation is different from that of the United States, where officials sought tough measures such as wiretapping and arming pilots in the aftermath of the attacks.

"We have to focus on two things—how to support the coalition and how we can track down the various terrorist groups and their front organizations—and, of course, the principal weapon against terrorism is intelligence," he said.

Golez said Philippine authorities had to look for the terrorists' money trail, and know where their money was going and coming from. He said the passage of the anti-money laundering law was necessary to do this.

Bush had listed the extremist Abu Sayyaf among the 27 supposed terrorist groups whose assets would be frozen.

Golez stressed that the "last overt evidence" of the Abu Sayyaf's link with No. 1 terrorist suspect Osama bin Laden was in 1995-1996.

"Since then, we have not seen anything overt, but we are not letting our guard down," he said.

He noted that the recent arrest of Abu Sayyaf members "indicates some connections," but that "we will be very careful with this."

Agence France Presse quoted Golez as saying in a radio interview that the US crackdown on global terrorism would hopefully boost the Philippine military's efforts to track down the Abu Sayyaf. "Because the Abu Sayyaf is in (the US) order of battle, maybe we will get an opportunity to ask for more assistance," Golez said.

"There is a possibility that the Americans will help us even more once military operations (against Bin Laden's allies) begin. But we have not reached that point because those military operations have not yet started," he said.

Romulo said that while the military and police were "part of the overall security program," there appeared to be no present need for the deployment of Marines to shopping malls and other public places.

He said various agencies met last week "and precisely, all the installations vital to our national interest and economy have been enumerated."

"All we need to do is see to it that this monitoring will be sustained," he said.

Prepared

In Lucena City, a member of the Quezon provincial council urged provincial executives to come up with a program for the expected rush of Filipino workers from overseas in the event of a full-scale war.

"How many of these (workers) have families in Quezon?" Board Member Hernando Avellaneda said in a speech. "What is the prospect of out local economy in case this long and protracted battle begins? Are we prepared enough to combat this socio-political and economic dilemma?"

Among the "pillars" announced by the President was "upholding the interest" of Filipino workers overseas. She said the government would "support their immediate transfer out of harm's way in the event of tactical contingencies anywhere in the world."

The provincial council also offered a minute of prayer for Grace Alegre Cua, a native of Quezon who was reported missing in the attack on the World Trade Center in New York and who had been confirmed dead.

"She was from the town of Infanta. According to her kin, she was working on the uppermost floor of the building," Avellaneda told the INQUIRER. ***With reports from AFP; Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

'Very shy kid,' says Osama's British teacher

(From page A1)

Bin Laden, then aged 13 and now the most wanted man in the world, had been "immaculately" well-behaved, said teacher Brian Fyfield-Shayler, 69, now retired.

"He was extraordinarily polite, quiet, I would say he was very shy," Fyfield-Shayler told Britain's GMTV television.

"Not at the top of his class, but not at bottom—somewhere in the middle. That does not mean to say he was middling. He was at one of the top two schools and that would put him in the top 50 or 60 students of his age in the country," Fyfield-Shayler said.

Fyfield-Shayler, then head of English at al-Thaghr, an elite western-style Saudi school in Jeddah, taught Bin Laden for a year from 1968.

He said he had no idea why Bin Laden, whom he remembers as tall, handsome and fairer-skinned than average, had acted the way he has done in later life.

The once quiet, shy pupil is chief suspect in the spectacular terrorist attacks in the United States on Sept. 11, which are thought to have killed more than 6,000 people.

Based in Afghanistan, he is said to command a global terrorist network.

"One would possibly have to look at his experiences in Afghanistan after he left school," Fyfield-Shayler said.

"That would possibly have been the first time he had met the Americans in any number and obviously something happened there to really turn him viciously against the Americans."

It was also possible Bin Laden, son of a wealthy Saudi family, viewed his education at al-Thaghr as alien to traditional culture.

"In retrospect," added Fyfield-Shayler, "perhaps we could have introduced science and foreign languages and school uniforms in rather a more sensitive way." ***AFP***

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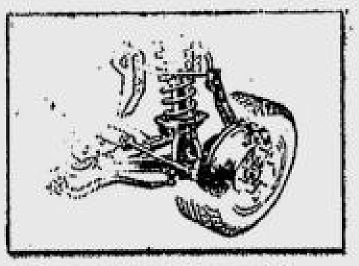

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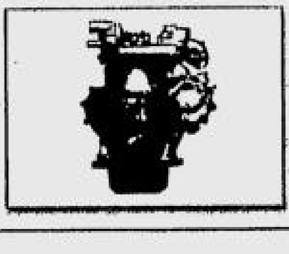

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Not an executive. Not a spectator. Not a pitchman. Not a baseball player. Not a golfer. Not a homebody. Not a retiree.

A basketball player who wants to play basketball again. Simple as that.

"I'm doing it for the love of the game. Nothing else," Jordan said in the first week of September, in all but confirming his return.

He made it official Tuesday, using similar language: "I am returning as a player to the game I love.

He is 38 and will turn 39 in February, but he no doubt believes he can still step onto the court, size somebody up and beat him. *(See related story on Page 1)*

His father, the late James Jordan, called it a "competition problem."

In the three years since he retired from the Bulls, the problem with his competition problem was a level playing field. He played high-stakes golf matches against ordinary men who nonetheless could find themselves his equal if they could shoot anywhere near par.

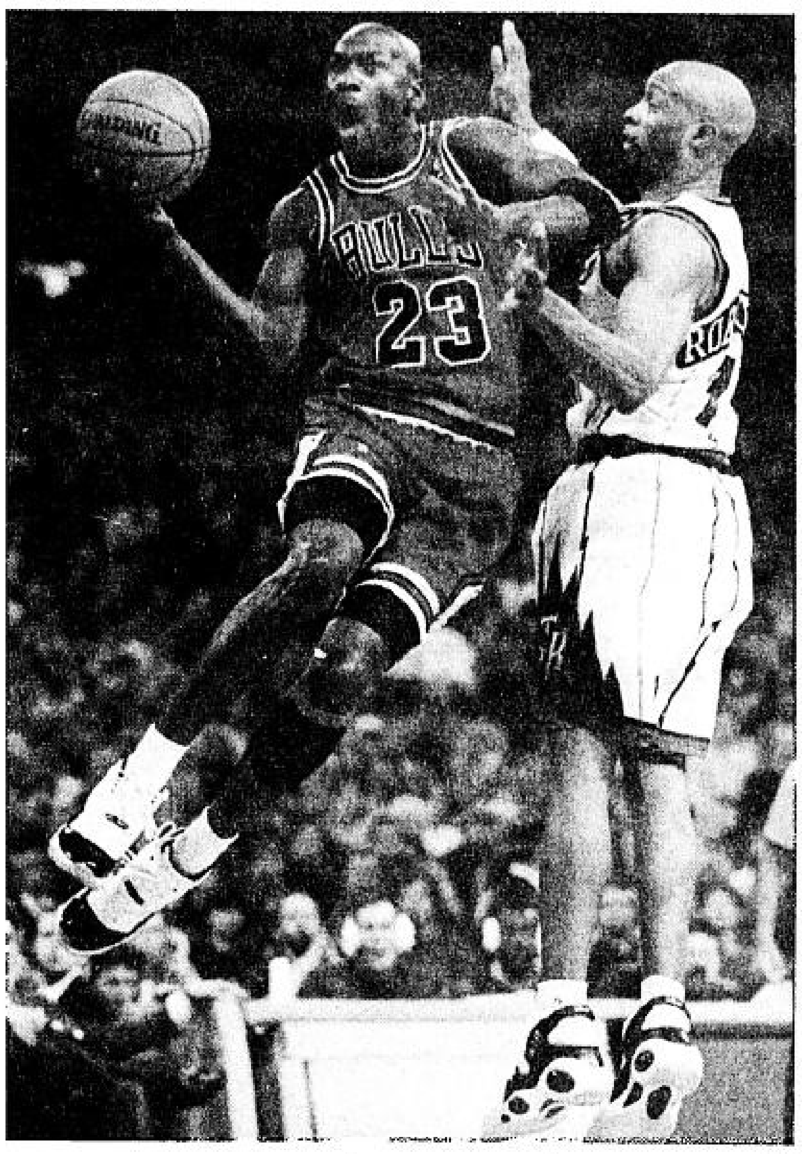
He talked trade with 28 other team executives whose savvy and smarts are calculated in terms of their knowledge of salary caps, trade exceptions and the other details that NBA executives must master.

The competitive advantage he had enjoyed as a basketball player - simply knowing that he was better - was absent.

Jordan had faded in the public spotlight, pitching sports drinks, batteries and long distance service to a public far less enamored of him than it was just three years ago.

He sat in his luxury box at Wizards games, smoked cigars, scarfed down steaks and watched his once-impeccable body slowly grow softer as middle age drew nearer.

The basketball-viewing public had become enamored of a new generation of stars - the smoothness of Kobe Bryant, the athleticism of Vince Carter, the dynamism of Allen Iverson. *AP*



AP

JORDAN (23) soaring past Toronto's Alvin Robertson in this file photo.

HIGHLIGHTS

Five-time regular season Most Valuable Player, 1987-88, 1990-91, 1991-92, 1995-96, 1997-98.

Won three consecutive NBA Finals MVPs, twice, 1991-93 and 1996-98.

Second player to win seven straight scoring titles, 1986-87 to 1992-93 (Wilt Chamberlain, 1960-66). Also won scoring titles in 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98.

All-NBA first team seven straight years, 1987-93. Also 1996-1998.

All-Defense first team six straight years, 1988-93. Also 1996-1998.

NBA Defensive Player of the Year, 1988.

NBA Rookie of the Year, 1984-85.

NBA Slam Dunk Champion, 1987, 1988.

NBA All-Star Game MVP, 1988, 1996, 1998. *AP*

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

GOLF: PGA Marconi Pennsylvania Classic, Final Round at 2 p.m. (r), Highlights at 11:30 p.m. on Star Sports

BASEBALL: Wednesday Night Baseball at 7 a.m., 10 a.m. and midnight on ESPN

BADMINTON: JVC Asian Badminton Championships at 10 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

POC recognizes Literal BAP president

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

THE PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee decided yesterday to acknowledge Tiny Literal president of the Basketball Association of the Philippines during its general assembly meeting yesterday.

But the POC made one condition: That Literal drop all court cases filed against its rival group led by former BAP chief Freddie Jalasco.

Literal welcomed the news and said "it was a fresh whiff of air" for the trouble-ridden association. He said he was ready to drop the three cases he had filed in court.

However, former BAP secretary general Nic Jorge said he would file an injunction against Literal's group to prevent them from using the name BAP.

Jorge accused the POC of rushing to the decision by readily recognizing Literal instead of putting the entire POC body into a vote first.

But POC secretary general Romy Ribaño believed they had managed to strike "a perfect deal" in that nobody "opposed the decision" which was forged after three hours of intense deliberation yesterday.

The Fiba (international basketball federation) early this month recognized Literal as BAP president.

Hopkins has edge over Trinidad but…

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

I GIVE way once again to our dear reader, Ramon E. Karganilla of 2314 Zamora St., Santa Ana, Manila.

"Dear Sir,

"I am a Felix "Tito" Trinidad fan and will always be. He is the Fighter of the Year in 2000, the best pound-for-pound, round-for-round, punch-for-punch.

"Bernard Hopkins (IBF & WBC Champ) and Felix Trinidad (WBA Champ) will finally square off for the unification of the Middleweight crown on Sept. 30, Madison Square Garden, New York City. ***(Watch it on RPN 9 beginning 9 a.m.—ASM)***

"Hopkins has the edge in size but at 37, I wonder if he can go the distance at a furious pace with Trinidad. Hopkins boasts of an impressive record and lost only a close decision to Roy Jones Jr., who declined a rematch but that was way back in 1993.

"I have not seen any Hopkins title defense on TV, perhaps due to few talents in the Middleweight class which can't generate interest unlike the Welterweight and Jr. Middleweight divisions that are star-studded with the likes of Shane Mosley, Oscar De la Joya, Fernando Vargas, Ike Quartey and David Reid. Trinidad has beaten the best in both divisions except Mosley who arrived later. Trinidad has nothing more to prove.

"Trinidad moved up a class higher and dethroned the mascular William Joppy of his WBA Middleweight title by KO in 5 rounds. Joppy was badly outclassed. Later after the fight, he said that he didn't expect Trinidad to be that strong and can hit hard with both hands.

"Trinidad is comfortable at 160 lbs. though he balloons to 172 lbs. after each fight. After beating the Golden Boy, De la Joya, he resisted a big payday for a rematch due to weight problems. The torture and pain of reducing to the 147-lb limit was punishing; he loses strength and stamina.

"Trinidad's major weapon is his left hand, a hook and then an uppercut, and uppercut and then a hook. When a thumper such as Trinidad lands 61 percent of his power punches (according to (compu box) and when you can't see his left hook coming, (like Fernando Vargas in the first round) you might as well use a blindfold and murmur a little prayer.

"Puerto Ricans are very vocal and passionate about their fighters. If a champion loses, so does 4 million in the tiny island and the other 3 million sprinkled throughout the States. A majority lives in the Bronx, New York. Hispanics comprise a big chunk of the pay-per-view buys and thousands will fill up the Madison Square Garden to chant and root for Felix "Tito" Trinidad, El Gran Campeon.

"This will be the biggest purse of Bernard Hopkins in his whole boxing career. Trinidad is in a no-lose situation when he calls out Roy Jones Jr. and should he upset the legend that Jones has become, Trinidad will have pulled off one of boxing history's biggest upsets.

"I think I have sounded off too much for now and I hope you'll still want to hear from me when a super fight comes along.

"P.S. Masamori Tokuyama must have studied the tapes of In Joo Cho's two wins over Gerry Peñalosa. Using his big advantage in height and reach, he applied the same pattern on Gerry and added headbutts on the side. Referee O'Connell goofed off on the job and I smelled something fishy."

Thank you, Ramon. Sure, I'll always want to hear from you. Experts are always welcomed here.

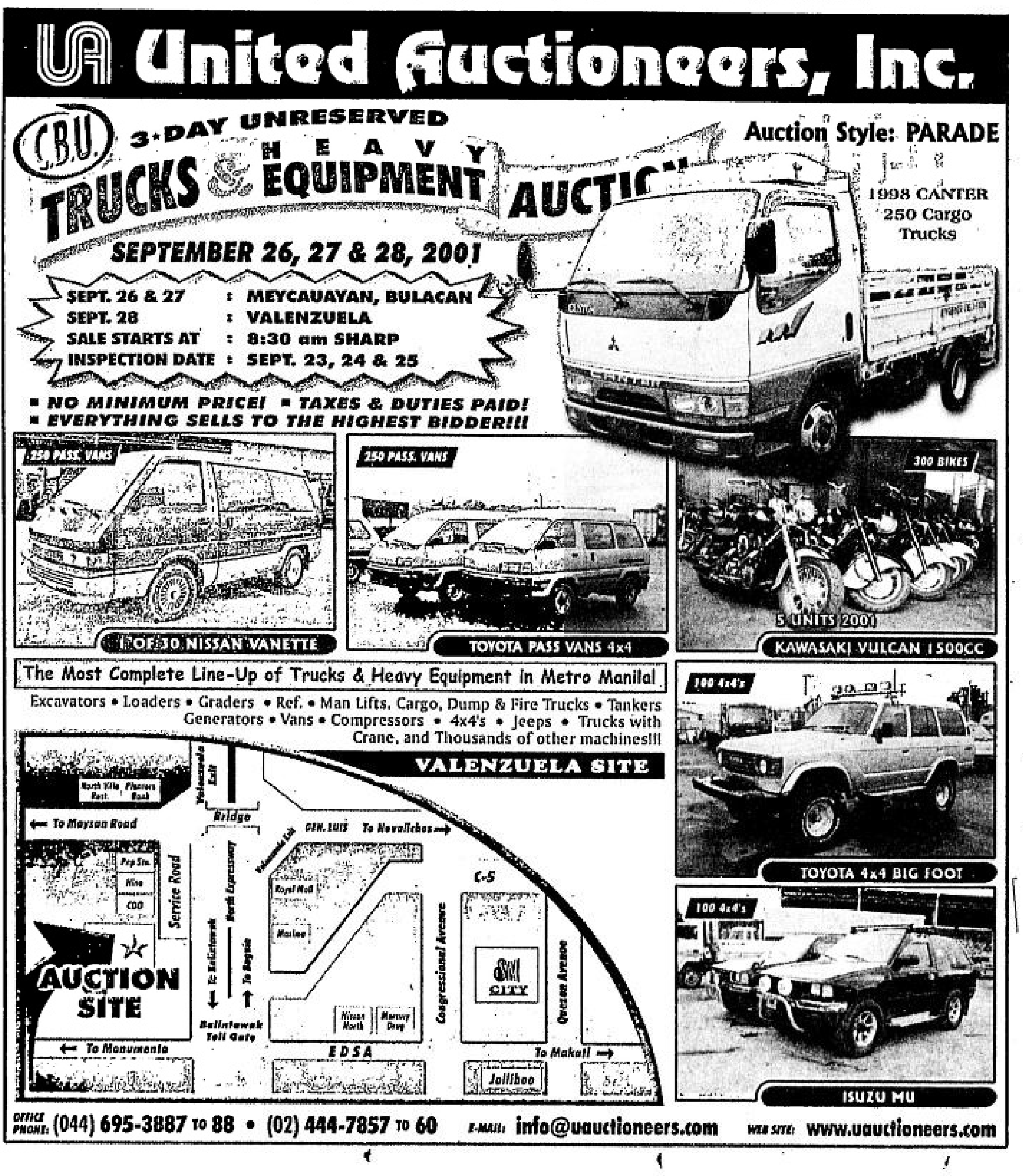
50 fights set for Ucap derby tonite

MORE THAN 50 fights are in store for aficionados when Mandaluyong Coliseum's "3rd Ucap/Red Flag 7-Stag Derby" starts at 6 tonight. Sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Washout Shampoo.

From a field of 39, only two cockers posted three victories each Tuesday night. They are Pol Estrellado (PE San Pablo PBRJ) and engineer Sonny Lagon (Blue Blade JBB). With 2.5 points are entries Bench and Dante Oct. 13 4-Stag Roligon, Ucap Red Flag and Bench ASF Roligon Oct. 13 4-Stag Roligon while 16 other bets have two points each.

The current leaders in the Ucap Stagfighter of the Year 2001 are Benjie Lim (Ucap BL, 10 points); Sonny Lagon and J. Brillantes (Blue Blade JBB, 9.5); Vic Yu (King Boxer, 9); Vic Yu (Sir Vincent, 8.5); Mayor Claudy Bautista (CPB PBRJ I, 8); Biboy Enriquez (Oct. 9-11 Mandaluyong, 8).

Meanwhile, the 4th Ucap/Arnis Master 7-Stag Derby, to be hosted by popular jeweler Raymond Velayo, is all set Tuesday and Thursday (Oct. 2 and 4).



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New York wins AL East

NEW YORK—The New York Yankees were at their best before and after their first home game since the terrorist attacks.

The Yankees' 4-0 loss to Tampa Bay hardly mattered Tuesday as the team honored the victims and rescue workers, and wrapped up its fourth straight AL East title.

The Yankees got a loud ovation before joining the players on the pitcher's mound.

This wasn't a vigil, reliever Mike Stanton said. This wasn't a mourning. This was a celebration of the courage of all the rescuers and everyone in the United States.

Clemens (20-2) lost for the first time since May 20 at Seattle, ending a 16-game winning streak. He did strike out nine batters to move into third place on the career strikeout list.

He gave up a one-out single to Brent Abernathy in the first inning then threw wildly into the stands on a pickoff attempt. Ben Grieve and Toby Hall hit RBI singles in the inning to give Sturtze a 2-0 lead he wouldn't relinquish. *AP*

BASEBALL RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East	W	L	Pct	GB
x-New York	89	61	.593	
Boston	75	74	.503	13 1/2
Toronto	74	77	.490	15 1/2
Baltimore	60	90	.400	29
Tampa Bay	54	96	.360	35
Central				
Cleveland	87	65	.572	
Minnesota	80	71	.530	6 1/2
Chicago	78	73	.517	8 1/2
Detroit	62	89	.411	24 1/2
Kansas City	58	93	.384	29 1/2
West				
x-Seattle	108	44	.711	
y-Oakland	93	58	.616	14 1/2
Anaheim	74	77	.490	33 1/2
Texas	70	82	.461	38

x-clinched division
y-clinched wild card spot

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	81	70	.536	
Philadelphia	80	71	.530	1
New York	77	74	.510	4
Florida	70	81	.464	11
Montreal	64	87	.424	17
Central				
Houston	90	61	.596	
St. Louis	86	66	.566	4 1/2
Chicago	81	70	.536	9
Milwaukee	65	86	.431	25
Cincinnati	62	89	.411	28
Pittsburgh	58	94	.382	32 1/2
West				
Arizona	84	67	.556	
San Francisco	83	69	.546	1 1/2
Los Angeles	81	71	.533	3 1/2
San Diego	75	76	.497	9
Colorado	67	84	.444	17

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Baltimore 12, Boston 7; Cleveland 11, Toronto 7; Tampa Bay 4, N.Y. Yankees 0; Seattle 13, Texas 2; Detroit 6, Kansas City 4; Minnesota 4, Chicago White Sox 2; Oakland 9, Anaheim 3.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

N.Y. Mets 2, Montreal 0; Atlanta 5, Florida 2, 11 innings; Pittsburgh 13, Chicago Cubs 1; Cincinnati 8, Philadelphia 1; St. Louis 3, Houston 2; San Diego 8, Colorado 7; Milwaukee 9, Arizona 4; Los Angeles 9, San Francisco 5. *AP*

Ryder donates $520,000

SAN ANTONIO—The Ryder Cup matches have been postponed, but not the charity.

US captain Curtis Strange said Tuesday his team will donate $520,000 to the National Disaster Relief Fund, while the PGA of America said it would give $500,000.

The pledges were announced during the "Tribute of America" at Fiesta Texas theme park, a patriotic rally that featured three Ryder Cup players, nearly a few tears and a videotaped message from President George W. Bush.

Bush commended the PGA Tospectful to the Texas Open to come to San Antonio without staying to play in the tournament.

Several other players in the Texas Open attended. *AP*

Trip to Singapore awaits winner

THE TITO Boy's Trophy, a much-anticipated Philippine Junior Golf Federation tournament, will be played Sunday, Sept. 30, at Wack Wack East.

"I'm calling on federation tournaments and activities and in line with our desire to provide equal opportunities, there are no entry fees and complimentary snacks and refreshments will be served," said organizer Boy Cantada.

Milo, the Olympics energy drink, and Outback Steakhouse are the tournament supporters.

"The overall winner will win an all-expense trip to Singapore in December to take part in the Singapore Island Country Club Junior Open championship," Cantada said.

The award ceremony and dinner will be held right after the tournament at the social hall of the Cantada Sports Center in Taguig, Rizal. Valuable prizes will be raffled among the players.

RACING TIPS

AT SAN LAZARO BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. El Condor 2. Royal Worship 3. Full Show 4. Gold and Dollar

Race 2—1. Gutmoore 2. Alexander 3. Dixie Dancer 4. Play By Ear

Race 3—1. Windlass 2. Diva 3. Wassapenin 4. Good Quality 5. Firenze Rose

Race 4—1. Dedicated 2. Kontra Todo/Hunting Treasure 3. Tour de Force 4. Lizzie's Doll

Race 5—1. No Regrets 2. Irish Diplomat/Sweet Justice 3. Boy from Brazil/Full Blast 4. Knows Love 5. Cherish Emblem

Race 6—1. Jhelen 2. Diamond Star 3. Al's Princess 4. Pretty Pleasing

Race 7—1. Ang Seaman 2. Gold Honors 3. Vice Consul 4. Noble Principality 5. King Eward 6. Mystika

Race 8—1. Kitty Hawk 2. All Smiles 3. My Indy 4. Hurry Prince 5. Diplomatic Bull

Race 9—1. Ohayo Gozaimas 2. Ikaw Pag Asa Ko 3. Gallop for Gold 4. Triple Joy 5. The King 6. True Mighty

FREE GOLF LESSONS

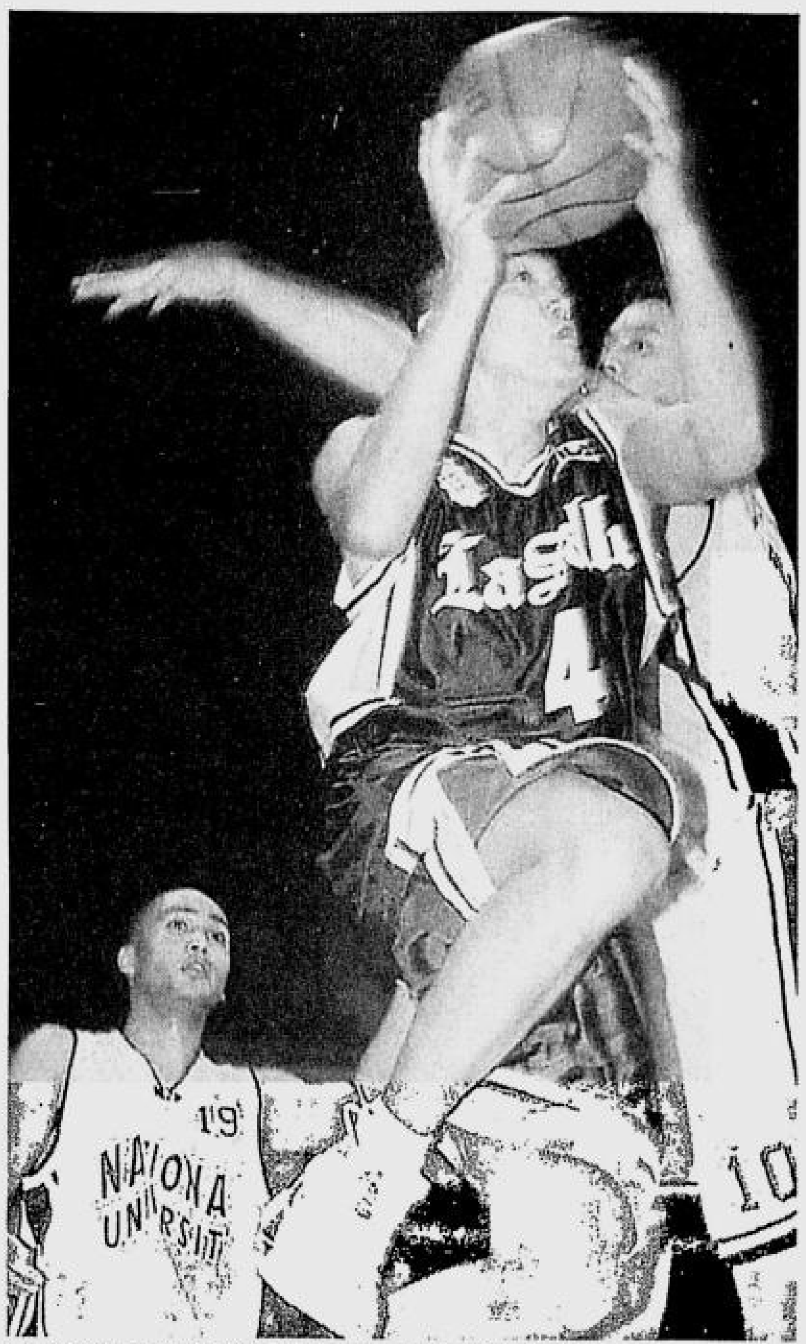
Jimmy Malanyaon, Jr., Toledo, Ohio-based Filipino golf swing analyst (extreme left), has been conducting two-hour free golf clinics for free at the Brampton Golf Centre, for the benefit of young Fil-Canadians golfers residing in the Greater Toronto Area. Jimmy got his initial training from premier golf guru, David Leadbetter at his Orlando, Florida Lake Nona Resort. He will be leaving on Sept. 29 for Paris to hold two free golf clinics for young French golfers at the Loire Valley Area in Central France. In photo are his students (seated left to right) Ryan Cesar, Richard Angeles, David Falco. Standing are (left to right) Jimmy, Chin-Chin Malanyaon, Andrew Falco, Angelica Cruz, Elmer Angeles, Angelita Falco and Annalisa Falco.

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▨ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

DREAM SHOWDOWN

La Salle, Ateneo start best-of-3 series today



LA Salle's Ritualo (4): Biggest worry for the Eagles. BETOY JOHNSON

TALE OF THE TAPE

LA SALLE		ATENEO DE MANILA
Franz Pumaren	Head Coach	Joe Lipa
12-2	Elimination record	10-4
Defeated NU, 111-85	Final 4 result	Defeated FEU, 67-63
79.8 ppg*	Offense	70.1 ppg
75.4 ppg	Defense	67.3 ppg
45.9 %*	FG Shooting	39.3 %
34 %*	3 Pt. Shooting	27.4 %
65.2 %*	FT Shooting	57 %
40.6	RPG	42.6
15.8*	APG	13.4
F. Ritualo (18.5 ppg)	Scoring Leader	E. Villanueva (17.4 ppg)
W. Wilson (7.0 rpg)	Rebounding Leader	R. Alvarez (10.2 rpg)*
M. Cortez (6.2 apg)*	Assists Leader	L.A. Tenorio (2.9 apg)
M. Cardona (59 %)*	2 Pt. Shooting Leader	Tenorio (55.9 %)
B.J. Manalo (44.4%)*	3 Pt. Shooting Leader	L. Fonacier (34.2 %)

*League Leader

Regular Season Meeting
First Round: July 15 – DLSU 91, Ateneo 76
Second Round: September 16 – DLSU 76, Ateneo 63

BY DENNIS EROA

FOUR-PEAT seeking La Salle and title-hungry Ateneo start their dream showdown today with neither team enjoying a big advantage in the UAAP men's basketball finals at the Araneta Coliseum.

Odds are just even when the Green Archers clash with the Blue Eagles at 5 p.m. in Game One today of the best-of-three title series before an expected overflow crowd.

La Salle has beaten Ateneo twice in the eliminations, but even coach Franz Pumaren admitted that "the finals is going to be an entirely different story. It's back to zero."

Pumaren knows very well what he's talking about. He has guided the Green Archers to their lofty position in the last three years, surviving pressure-filled games in the process.

While La Salle knows how it feels to be on the top, Ateneo is trying to reclaim old glory. It won 16 NCAA titles, and two back-to-back UAAP crowns in 1987 and 1988.

The addition of Lewis Alfred Tenorio, a former San Beda junior stalwart, has been doing wonders for the Blue Eagles. Saved from his tendency to lose focus, Tenorio has successfully put order to Ateneo's backcourt, relegating veterans Andrew Cruz and Paul Tan Chi to the sidelines.

This year's Ateneo squad is also regarded by experts as matured enough to crack the big time.

Enrico Villanueva, Paolo Bugia and Rich Alvarez will battle La Salle big men Carlo Sharma, Manny Ramos and Mike Gavino.

Mark Cardona, picked by the UAAP Press Corps, as rookie of the year and a member of the all-rookie team, and Mike Cortez make La Salle's backcourt deadly.

But the biggest worry for the Blue Eagles should be the hot-shooting Ren Ren Ritualo, who is known for his penchant of hitting the crucial shots. Also voted by the press corps as MVP, Ritualo poses a problem to Ateneo's defense since he moves well without the ball and uses picks perfectly.

Players of 1988 ADMU-DLSU finals will be introduced before the game. *With a report from Lorenzo Manguiat*

Gins nose out Aces

GAMES TOMORROW (Philsports)
5:05p.m.—Shell vs Purefoods
7:10p.m.—Tanduay vs Swift

BY JUNE NAVARRO

BARANGAY Ginebra snapped a two-game skid with a 103-101 victory over winless Alaska last night to force a three-way tie at fourth spot in the PBA Governors Cup at the Philsports Arena.

Mark Caguioa and Jayjay Helterbrand infused life into the Kings' offense in the third period as Ginebra went on to pick up its second win in four games.

The Kings, playing hurt with 6-foot-8 slotman Alex Crisano out for the season due to a serious abdominal injury, are now locked in a standoff at fourth with Pop Cola and Purefoods.

Crisano's absence, however, was hardly missed as the Kings sustained Helterbrand's and Caguioa's heroics down the stretch to hand the Aces their worst start in the league.

Although parading a new import in NBA veteran Dexter Boney, the Aces still failed to avert a slump. They are now occupying the cellar at 0-4.

Jones, Ginebra coach Allan Caidic bared, is being hampered by a left abdominal tear since the Kings acquired him at the start of the season-ending conference.

Import Brandon Williams shone as Talk N Text subdued San Miguel Beer, 88-83, to nail down its fourth straight victory in the second game.

The Phone Pals now share the lead with Sta. Lucia Realty at 4-0, while the Beermen tasted their second defeat in four games.

Scores:

GINEBRA 103—Jones 30, Limpot 26, David 16, Caguioa 15, Helterbrand 10, Calpito 6, Meneses 0, Lago 0, Ong 0, Magtulis 0.

ALASKA 101—Peek 25, Duremdes 20, Boney 18, Santos 8, Gahol 8, Arigo 8, Wallkvist 6, Ordonio 5, Evans 3, Reyes 0.

Quarters: 27-26, 49-51, 80-72, 103-101.

Jose Rizal-SSC tiff gets going at Rizal

GAMES TODAY
(Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
1:30 p.m.—San Beda vs Letran (jrs)
3:30 p.m.—San Sebastian vs Jose Rizal University (srs)

BY JUNE NAVARRO

FOR decades, Jose Rizal University has not seen the glimmer of an NCAA championship trophy.

The Heavy Bombers, champions in 1973, came close to winning a crown in 1999 but the Letran Knights, playing kill-joy, handily beat them for the title.

This time, the Heavy Bombers are hell-bent on regaining glory when they dispute the crown against San Sebastian College in a best-of-three titular series starting today at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

JRU coach Boy de Vera, a member of the 1973 Jose Rizal squad, said they would exhaust all means just to reclaim a long lost prestige.

"Next year, my starters will be gone. This is our last chance to win the title. Otherwise, we will again rebuild a team capable of beating the title-favorites," said De Vera, referring to powerhouse schools such as San Sebastian, Letran, St. Benilde and Mapua.

Top MVP contender Ernani Epondulan, Ariel Capus, Rendel dela Rea, Victor Lazaro and Nathaniel Gregorio are playing in their last year.

On the other hand, the Stags, five-time champions in the '90s, still have an intact lineup until next year with only sniper Mark Macapagal expected to move on to the professional ranks.

"We just have to stop Epondulan and play stubborn defense for 40 minutes," said SSC coach Turing Valenzola, a three-time PBA champion coach in the late '80s.

In the junior division, the San Beda Red Cubs and the Letran Squires begin their best-of-three title series at 1:30 p.m.

Osaka scores anew

CEBU—Osaka Iridology pulled off a 75-68 victory over tournament favorite M. Lhuillier yesterday to gain solo leadership in the CBL Court Battles at the Cebu Coliseum.

It was the second straight win for the Iridologists after their 91-88 escape over another title favorite, Chariot/Skygo Metro Cabs.

Batangas, Laguna zap foes

GAMES TOMORROW
Araullo Gym (Cabanatuan City)
3 p.m.—TPG-Davao vs Andok's San Juan
5:30 p.m.—LBC Batangas vs Nueva Ecija

BY ROY LUARCA

STA. CRUZ, Laguna—The LBC Batangas Blades called on Romel Adducul to put away the Nueva Ecija Patriots, 89-77, yesterday and gain the solo lead in the MBA Second Phase at the San Luis Sports Complex here.

Adducul, the league's MVP last year, poured eight points in the third quarter as the Blades finally pulled away en route to their fourth straight victory in as many starts.

The Patriots, who even led by one point late in the third quarter, absorbed their second straight loss after taking their first two.

Asserting their dominance inside the paint, Adducul wound up with 19 points, 13 rebounds and 3 blocks and was chosen best player of the game.

Blades coach Nash Racela also drew firepower from Alex Compton, who matched Adducul's 19 points, Eddie Laure with 15 and Jeffrey Sanders with 12.

FedEx Laguna buried Cebuana Lhuillier with an avalanche of points in the third quarter and proceeded to tally a 115-95 victory in the second game.

The Lakers, who led by as many as 34 points, improved to 2-2 while the Gems tasted their second straight defeat.

Meanwhile, MBA director for marketing and business development Ramon Tuason said the league wouldn't muddle up the issue on the composition of the Philippine team to the 2002 Asian Games.

Tuason and MBA commissioner Butch Antonio also announced that the Davao Eagles would now be known as TPG-Davao. The partnership was formalized yesterday.

Sport Truck show at Megamall

THE NEW Custom Car and Sport Truck 2001 is holding an exhibition and a series of motoring-related seminar at the Megatrade Hall of the SM Megamall B in Mandaluyong City. Admission is free of charge. Organized by Tradeshow International, the exhibition aims to provide motoring enthusiasts with everything they need to customize or modify their cars or sport trucks, including engine suspension, race tires, aero kits, audio set-ups and in-car video systems. The seminars, which started yesterday, will run until Sunday and will tackle different driving measures including "VIP Security Driving" to be conducted by Paul Smith, a British national who served with the British forces from 1974 to 1990.

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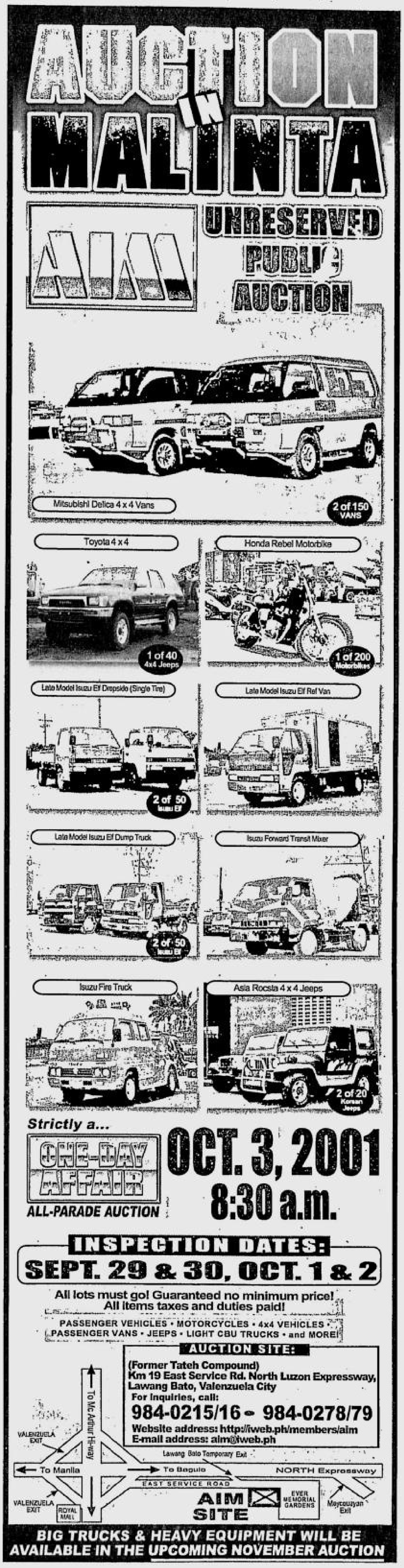

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Toyota 4 x 4 — 1 of 40 4x4 Jeeps
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Late Model Isuzu Elf Ref Van
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TONE FRIENDS

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TONE 1LASTCRY

I Put a Spell On You
Sonique
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Love Me For a Reason
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Spicegirls
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National Historical Institute rebuffs Atienza on Mehan A20

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

More officials suspended for Manor Hotel fire A20

Addicts rape wife before husband

BY AGNES DONATO

A 42-YEAR-OLD construction worker could hardly finish a sentence without cursing the two men who broke into his house in Mandaluyong City and raped his wife in front of him yesterday morning.

The victim told police that Diego Soro and Jaime Guanzon, both suspected drug dependents, were his friends and neighbors in Barangay Bagong Silang, Mandaluyong.

PO3 Romarico Sta. Maria, case investigator, said the man and his wife were roused from sleep by a scratching noise on their roof about 3:30 a.m.

The man got up to check what it was and decided to go back to bed when he saw nothing, police said.

But as he was walking back to his room, the two suspects allegedly came out of nowhere and grabbed him by the neck, PO3 Sta. Maria said.

The victim told police that Guanzon held a gun to his side while Soro threatened him with a knife.

Guanzon then took the victim to one corner while Soro threatened the woman with the knife.

Soro then proceeded to undress her at knifepoint.

Helpless, the man was made to witness how his wife suffered in the hands of the two men who took turns in raping her, Sta. Maria said.

The victim told police he had no choice but to shut his eyes and cry for he could not do anything to help his wife.

Soro allegedly even forced the victim to take shabu before the suspects left the couple's house, Sta. Maria said.

'Retire MMDA running coffins'

METRO Manila Development Authority (MMDA) should require its concessionaires to immediately retire dilapidated garbage trucks, which have already caused many vehicular accidents, Rep. Danton Bueser said yesterday.

"These running coffins should be retired or sold to junk shops the soonest time possible. Better yet, these could be submerged in the Laguna Bay and be used as fish sanctuaries," Bueser said.

The Laguna solon observed that many garbage trucks plying Metro Manila are not roadworthy as proven by the fact that many of them were involved in numerous mishaps that had many lives and injured scores of others.

"One can observe that many of these reconditioned trucks are not only dilapidated but also don't meet the necessary road requirements like hazard or tail lights," Bueser said.

Bueser added that most of these trucks are also violating the rules on capacity. "Most of the time, you will see a number of persons at the top of these vehicles as if they were riding the famous 'Motorco' at the Roxas Boulevard," he said.

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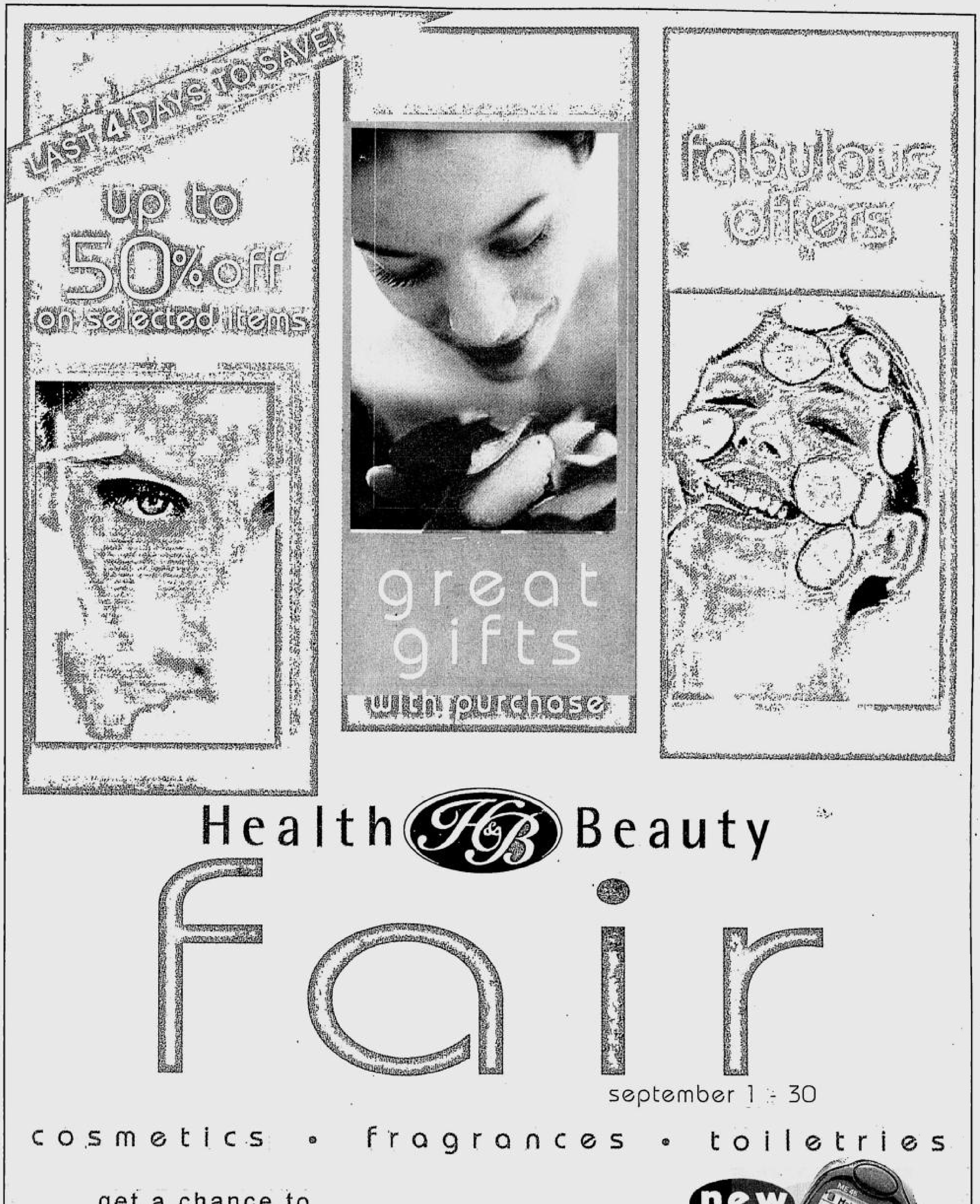
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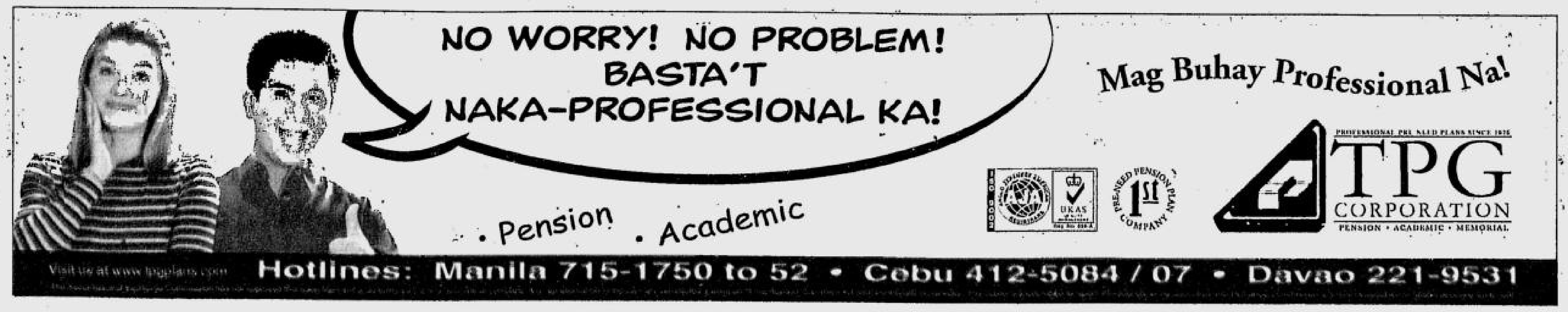
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No suicide in death of jueteng lord son-in-law

By Agnes Donato

THE DEATH of the son-in-law of suspected gambling lord Bong Pineda was not a case of suicide, the Eastern Police District said yesterday.

The EPD instead theorized accidental shooting could have caused the death.

Chief Supt. George Aliño, EPD director, said suicide was a highly improbable cause for the death of businessman Omar Victorino, 31, considering that the victim sustained the fatal gunshot wound in the chest.

Aliño pointed out that suicide victims who had used guns usually shot themselves in the temple or through the mouth to avoid the agony of slow death.

Victorino's bloodied body was found at the carport at his residence in North Greenhills Subdivision, San Juan about 1 a.m. Friday, shortly after he reportedly had a spat with his wife, Esmeralda.

He was found with the gun holster of his .45 cal. pistol still tucked in his waist.

Aliño said that accidental shooting was a probable reason for the death of Victorino, since the victim was reportedly holding the pistol when he went downstairs from their room at the second floor.

The police chief added that the victim might have dropped the gun or that the weapon might have gone off while Victorino was putting it back to its holster.

But Aliño said that there were several other angles being looked into, including murder, which could have been triggered by jealousy, business rivalry or estafa.

He said the investigation would only take a clear shape when the Philippine National Police crime laboratory services releases its autopsy report on the victim's body this week.

More officials are suspended for Manor fire

By Michael Lim Ubac

OMBUDSMAN Aniano Desierto yesterday preventively suspended 12 more Quezon City officials in connection with the Manor Hotel blaze, which killed 74 people and injured more than a hundred others.

Suspended for six months were license inspectors Godfrey Colet, Jose Caluag and Voltaire Padilla, utility worker Willy Jerez, industrial safety division chief Julius Villanueva, and building inspectors Rodel Mesa, Luis Sol, Ernesto Madrilejo and Winston Angeles.

The fire officials who were also suspended were Fire Chief Insp. Mario San Diego, Senior Fire Officer 4 Rodolfo Espina and Senior Fire Officer 1 Arnel Pinca.

All three fire officers were detailed with the city's district II fire station, which has jurisdiction over Manor Hotel.

Located on 122 Kamias Road, the hotel was gutted about 4:12 a.m. on Aug.18.

Desierto said the suspension "is not a penalty but preventive in nature."

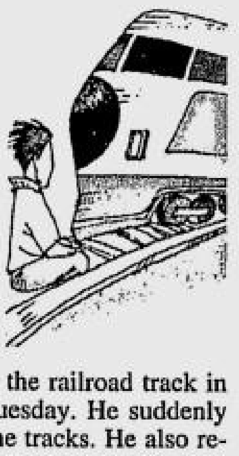
He said the suspension was imperative since the respondents' continued stay in office could prejudice the ongoing investigation of the Ombudsman's Office.

Desierto pointed out that the 12 officials were responsible for the inspection and issuance of permits to Manor.

Records showed that the city's fire officials had found, during their inspection, deficiencies in the fire safety features of the hotel.

"Nevertheless, the respondents failed to institute positive actions, such as imposition of administrative fine or recommendation for the stoppage of operation or closure of the Manor Hotel.. The failure of the respondents' fire personnel resulted in the tragic incident," Desierto said.

Tuesday night shocker



By Jerome Aning

A STRANGER who refused to speak to anybody provided an evening shocker to residents along the railroad track in San Andres, Manila on Tuesday. He suddenly changed path and sat on the tracks. He also remained firm and, in a few seconds, a train sped by. The man was crushed under the metal wheels.

The impact nearly decapitated the victim and mangled the rest of his body.

An identification card found in his pocket bore the name Benny Oilbelo, 25, single, a resident of Kaunlaran Street, Tondo.

Supt. Roberto dela Rosa, city traffic police chief, said the victim was last seen walking around 8 p.m. along the tracks near San Andres Street.

Residents told the police the man, who appeared dazed, did not speak to anyone.

When a northbound train approached, the man suddenly sat on the tracks. The victim was hurled and sucked under the train.

His remains were brought to the Tres Amigos Funeral Homes in Paco.

ABALOS

It's go for Tondo dumpsite

By Nelson Flores

THE METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority has approved proposals to reclaim shallow portions of the Manila Bay and make them into Metro Manila's permanent dumpsite.

Benjamin Abalos Sr., MMDA chair, told the INQUIRER that the proposal has been accepted after it was found to be viable.

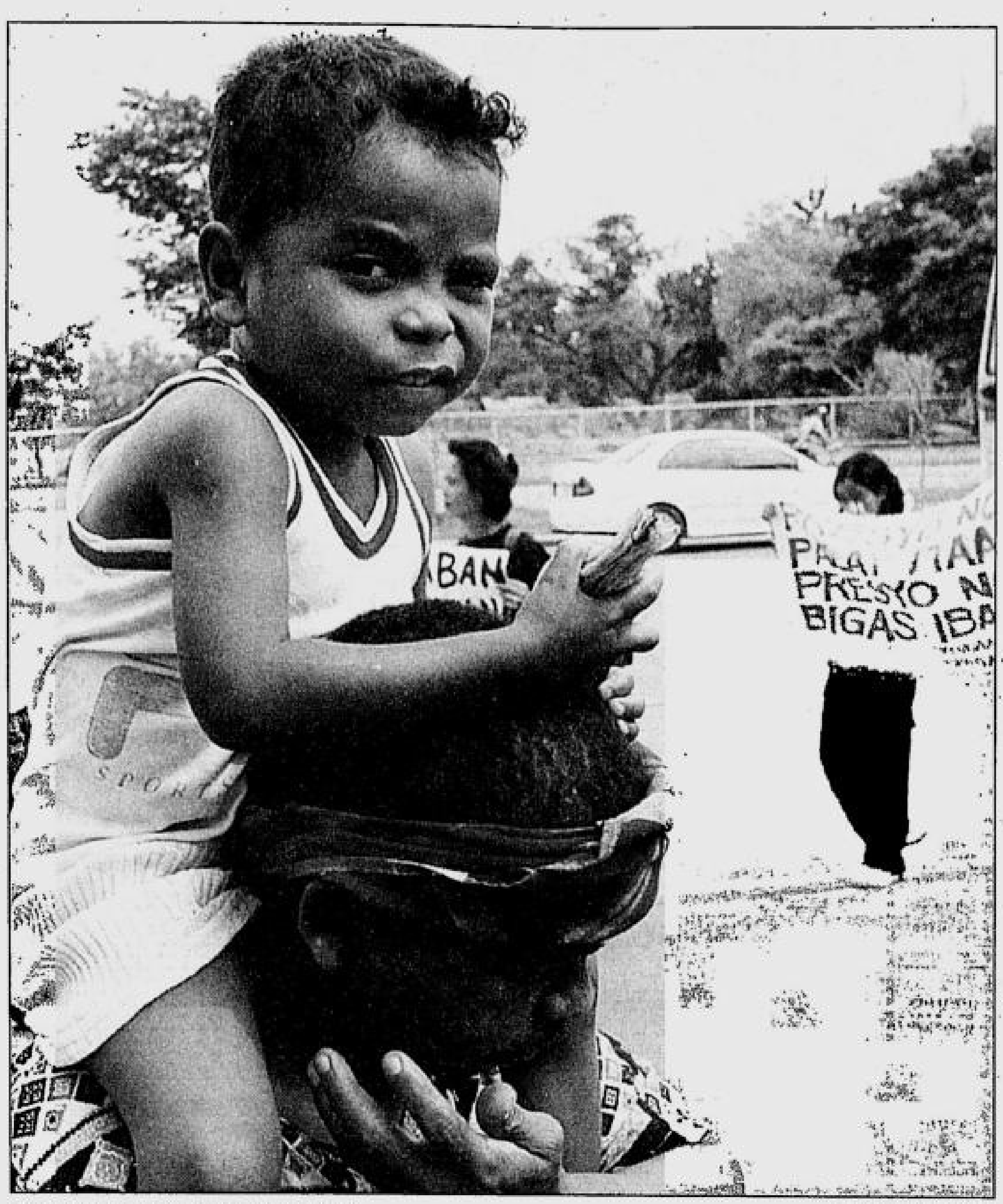
He, however, clarified that MMDA was not backing out of its plan to set up a sanitary landfill in Rodriguez, Rizal.

Abalos said the offshore dumpsite would be located in Tondo, Manila and would be built with the help of the Manila City government.

He said reclaiming portions of the Manila Bay is an attractive alternative considering the fierce opposition of the public toward the setting up of landfills.

"At least 250 hectares would be reclaimed from the sea," Abalos said.

He said a Japanese firm, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, had earlier proposed to reclaim portions of the sea for the MMDA but their fee was quite high.



GREAT RIDE, BAD PRICE DENNIS SABANGAN

AN Aeta boy appears to enjoy the boost on his father's shoulders, but who will boost his father, a poor farmer belonging to the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas? The farmers have been protesting the unfair pricing of rice commodities before the office of the Department of Agriculture in Quezon City.

Lacson in his element

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

SEN. Panfilo Lacson was in his element when he accused Justice Secretary Hernando Perez of keeping millions of dollars in Hong Kong supposedly acquired through extortion.

Anonymous text messages circulated saying Perez would go slow in pursuing the investigation into Lacson's hidden wealth because the senator supposedly had a dope on him.

Lacson was apparently behind the text messages.

***

The former Philippine National Police chief is notorious for manufacturing adverse stories about his detractors.

One of his victims was a female reporter of ABS-CBN. The reporter interviewed Francisco "Kit" Mateo, former Lacson henchman, who confessed that he had killed innocent people upon orders of Lacson. Mateo made the confession because he was dying of cancer. He died a few months ago.

Lacson accused the reporter of trying to blackmail him. He said the reporter was gifted with a van by alleged gambling lord Bong Pineda.

***

The ABS-CBN management nearly kicked out the reporter because of Lacson's accusation.

It turned out the accusations were blatant lies.

The money that the reporter used in buying the van came from a loan from the ABS-CBN employees cooperative. And who would dare blackmail Lacson, then the second most powerful man during the Erap administration next only to the president?

Lacson's accusation against Nani Perez should be treated like an ugly *tsismis* of which the neophyte senator is good at spreading.

Perez should expect more lies thrown his way by Lacson.

***

If you don't know Lacson, you would readily believe his lies. First, because he has the look of innocence.

Second, the guy believes his own lies, so much so that he gives the impression that he's telling the truth. He can lie with a straight face.

When I was still close to him, I would rib him about the clumsy manner with which suspected criminals were executed. For example, I said that Lacson and his men could have done a better job of showing the public that the Kuratong Baleleng members were killed in a two-way shootout.

"Mon, but those guys were really killed in a shootout," Lacson told me in all seriousness.

Pathological liar, that's what psychologists would analyze Lacson.

***

ABS-CBN's New Channel (ANC) conducted a poll yesterday with the question: Should the Philippine government ask concessions from the United States for supporting it in its fight against terrorism? Or words to that effect.

What a question!

The war against terrorism should have no preconditions.

***

But even if the Philippine government does not ask concessions from America, military aid from Uncle Sam will soon pour into the country.

The US government knows that our military is ill-equipped. Most of our military equipment are at least 10 years old when they were handed to us by the United States. Uncle Sam stopped giving us military aid after we drove the Americans out of Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base.

When we sent a police contingent to Haiti to join a US-led international peacekeeping force there, the US government was so elated it donated at least two C-130 transport planes to us.

America is generous to countries that sympathize with her in her hour of need.

***

The Philippine General Hospital management should investigate a slapping incident at the hospital recently where a security guard and a watcher of a sick patient were involved.

The watcher, a woman in her late 30s, was dragged out of the lobby of a ward and slapped by security guard Richard Benedicta.

The victim's only fault was that she refused to leave the bedside of her sick relative.

A PGH nurse allegedly ordered the guard to drag the woman out.

I brought the matter with the PGH management but I sense a cover-up.

Meet to decongest jails proposed

A TOP-LEVEL meeting among key officials of the Department of Justice, Department of the Interior and Local Government and the Supreme Court has been proposed to decongest BJMP jails.

Bureau of Jail Management and Penology officer-in-charge Arturo W. Alit said he plans to recommend such a meeting to Interior and Local Government Secretary Jose Lina Jr. to hasten coordination among the government agencies concerned and further expand para-legal services to inmates.

He said there could be other areas where close coordination could be made but have not yet been explored.

The BJMP head said he is pinning hopes on para-legal services to decongest BJMP jails, as funds are not available for the construction of more jails because of the state of our national economy.

Nat'l Historical Institute rebuffs Atienza on Mehan

By Jerome Aning

ATIENZA

THE NATIONAL Historical Institute yesterday said that the declaration of the Mehan Garden as historical in 1934 was done with due process, contradicting the Manila city government's position.

NHI special counsel Wilfredo Peñaflor said that Executive Order 451 which created the Philippines Historical Research and Markers Committee during the American colonial period did lay out process in declaring a place as historical.

The law, issued by Governor-General Frank Murphy, organized the PNRMC to identify, designate and mark historical sites and prescribed the process for doing so, the lawyer said.

"The procedure was scrupulously followed in the case of the Mehan," he added. "If the city government is saying that EO 451 is not a law, then that is its problem."

He said that under the rules on evidence, official acts of legislative, executive and judicial departments of the country are entitled to judicial notice without the need of introduction of evidence.

Peñaflor was reacting to City Legal Officer Melchor Monsod's earlier contention that there was no law which laid out the process in declaring a place as historical. He said what the committee did in 1934, was to approve plans for historical markers.

City Hall contends that no marker was ever placed on the garden, as claimed by the NHI.

Mayor Lito Atienza further said the city's own historical and cultural records do not mention the Mehan as historical.

Peñaflor said the placement of a historical marker by the NHI and its predecessor agencies "is a formal recognition of the historical significance of a structure or site."

He said that when the NHI was founded in 1972, it inherited its authority to identify, designate and mark historical sites from the laws that created the institute's predecessors—the PHRMC, the Philippine Historical Committee in 1937 and the National Historical Commission in 1965.

The NHI lawyer also reminded Monsod and Atienza that it was the city government which requested for the establishment of the garden back in 1857.

Morever, when the City Council enacted Ordinance No. 8000 in 2000, it declared as the city's policy "to preserve and enhance the historical value and significance of the former Mehan garden as an educational and socio-cultural center."

The ordinance was supposed to establish a new campus of the City College of Manila on the southern portion of the garden.

The NHI, backed by the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources, is objecting to the building of a P48.5-million multi-story parking structures on the northern part of the Mehan.

The historical agency said two presidential decrees forbid anyone from touching a historical site. City hall contends that the lot is not included in the Mehan and comprises Basa Street and part of the Metropolitan Theater's parking lot.

Peñaflor also denied that the NHI is targeting the mayor's development projects and that the Institute did not raise objections to the construction of the earlier edifices on the original Mehan, which then covered the whole area east of Intramuros.

He explained that the Central Post Office building, Intramuros golf course, and the Light Rail Transit's Central Station on Arroceros Street, Liwasang Bonifacio, its underpasses, and the Met are outside the Mehan's present boundaries covered by Original Certificate Title No. 1704.

METROBRIEFS

Pusher shot dead

POLICE yesterday shot dead suspected drug dealer and gunrunner Joeltel Mallorca, 38, near his house on Fausto Street, Barangay Marulas in Valenzuela City. Members of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group led by Chief Insp. Ramon Balaug conducted a buy-bust operation against Mallorca, who drew a gun as police were about to arrest him, investigation showed. Police said a .38 revolver with six rounds of live ammunition was found on the suspect. ***Christian V. Esguerra***

Cops face probe

POLICE officers PO1 Samuel Pilar, SPO1 Benjamin Pabillore, PO3 Vicente Pagilagan and PO2 Virgo Villareal face investigation in connection with the death of an unidentified suspected drug pusher in Paco, Manila at dawn yesterday. The Western Police District's homicide section said the male suspect died from a gunshot wound in the back. Police said the suspect was between 25 and 30 years old, about 5-foot-4, slim, dark-complexioned. He also had a tattoo of a suffering Christ on his chest. But rookie PO1 Pilar said he had no choice but to shoot the suspect who attacked him with a dagger. Pilar said he was slashed on the arm and the left side of his stomach during their struggle. The policemen were on patrol when they saw the suspect urinating against a wall on Quirino Avenue corner Pedro Gil Street about 3:30 a.m. yesterday. They said the suspect threw a plastic sachet on the ground and fled when he saw the policemen. ***Jerome Aning***

Pushing grandma nabbed

SUSPECTED drug dealer Sally Johnson Cabrera, 55, of 2421 Cuenca St. in Libertad, Pasay, was caught on Tuesday in the act of selling drugs to PO3 Sally Lloria and PO3 Ismael David who posed as buyers. Police said an unidentified informant called police that drugs were sold on Cuenca and Libertad streets. The call prompted Chief Insp. Rodolfo Llorca, chief of the Pasay City Police Drug Enforcement Unit, to send a team to the area to arrest the drug dealer. Two sachets of shabu were found on Cabrera who is now facing charges for violating of Republic Act 6425, also known as the Dangerous Drugs Act. ***Alcuin Papa***

2 killed in accidents

LEOPOLDO Bablunga, 40, of UP Diliman Quezon City, yesterday died from head injuries and broken bones after a vehicle hit him while he was crossing Sucat Road in Barangay San Antonio in Parañaque City. Police have yet to determine the type of vehicle that sent Bablunga crashing on the road headfirst. On Tuesday, Federico Florendo, 57, of Binakayan in Kawit, Cavite, died after a jeepney he was riding lost its brakes and crashed into a toll booth along the Coastal Road in Parañaque City. Another passenger, Edralyn Go, suffered serious injuries and is still in hospital for observation. Florendo's son Herminigildo, 39, was driving the jeepney. He surrendered to police after the accident. ***Alcuin Papa***

Gang member found dead

JANEL Diaz, 30, said to be a member of the Sigue-Sigue Sputnik Gang, was found dead yesterday morning with several stab and hack wounds in front of house No. 90 on Nawasa Road, Nawasa Site in Barangay Pasong Tamo, Quezon City. Police said Diaz could have been killed over an old grudge. ***Andrea Trinidad-Echavez***

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1 HEART BREAKERS in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2 FAST & FURIOUS in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 FAST & FURIOUS THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 FERDINANDO & CAROLINA (Exclusive Phil. Pemiere) Art Film in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5 ORIGINAL SIN in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6 PRINCESS DIARIES in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7 LA VIDA ROSA in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT
1 LA VIDA ROSA in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2 FAST & FURIOUS in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3 HEART BREAKERS in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4 MARTIN NIEVERA LIVE! SEPT. 27,28 & 29–8PM Onstage

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 FAST & FURIOUS THX in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2 HEART BREAKERS in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 PRINCESS DIARIES in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 ORIGINAL SIN in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5 LA VIDA ROSA in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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3 (DTS) ENEMY AT THE GATES
4 GOLD (DTS) FAST & FURIOUS
5 GOLD (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES
6 GOLD (SDDS) ORIGNAL SIN
7 GOLD (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES
8 BANYO QUEEN
9 LA VIDA ROSA
10 LA VIDA ROSA

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486
1 RESERVE
2 LA VIDA ROSA
3 (DTS) HEART BREAKERS
4 PUKYUTAN
5 RESERVE
6 (DTS) RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX RESERVE

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315
1 (DOLBY) RESERVE
2 (DTS) RESERVE
3 LA VIDA ROSA

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603
1 LA VIDA ROSA
2 FAST & FURIOUS
3 BANYO QUEEN

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2 ORIGINAL SIN
3 HEART BREAKER
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) FAST & FURIOUS
5 PUKYUTAN

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(Alabang) tel 543.4001
1 BANYO QUEEN
2 HEART BREAKERS
3 FAST & FURIOUS
4 LA VIDA ROSA
5 RESERVE
6 RESERVE
7 ORIGINAL SIN
8 PUKYUTAN

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
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FAST & FURIOUS

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1 SHREK
2 BANYO QUEEN

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1 LA VIDA ROSA
2 PITCH BLACK
3 FAST & FURIOUS

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1 LA VIDA ROSA
A

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(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376
1 LA VIDA ROSA
2
3
4

GOTESCO CINEMA
City
(Manila) tel 734.8588
1 (DOLBY) LA VIDA ROSA
2 RESERVE
3 RESERVE
4 KNIGHT'S TALE
5 ORIGINAL SIN
6 LA VIDA ROSA
7 (DTS) FAST & FURIOUS
8 (SDDS) PRINCESS DIARIES
9 (DOLBY) HEART BREAKERS

Caloocan
tel 362.3508
2 LA VIDA ROSA

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3761
1 LA VIDA ROSA
2 LA VIDA ROSA
3 BANYO QUEEN
4 (SDDS) FAST & FURIOUS
5 HEART BREAKERS
6 (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES
7 (DTS) ORIGINAL SIN
8 PUKYUTAN
9 BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083
1 (DTS) FAST & FURIOUS
2 LA VIDA ROSA
3 BANYO QUEEN
4 PUKYUTAN
5 (SDDS) HEART BREAKERS
6 LA VIDA ROSA
7 (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES
8 ORIGINAL SIN

Ortigas
tel 656.6795
1 LA VIDA ROSA
2 HEART BREAKERS
3 (DTS) FAST & FURIOUS
4 LA VIDA ROSA
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Universal
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(Cubao) tel 911.7888
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2 LA VIDA ROSA
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

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3 LA VIDA ROSA

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SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238
1 (DOLBY) LA VIDA ROSA
2 HEART BREAKERS
3 ORIGINAL SIN
4 FAST & FURIOUS
5 PRINCESS DIARIES

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619
1 LA VIDA ROSA
2 BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
3 PUKYUTAN
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 RESERVE

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115
1 (DOLBY) LA VIDA ROSA
2 BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
3 RESERVE

Berma
tel 879-2029 or 30
1 LA VIDA ROSA
2 PUKYUTAN

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269
1 LA VIDA ROSA
2 HEART BREAKERS
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198
1 LA VIDA ROSA
2 LA VIDA ROSA
3 (DTS) FAST & FURIOUS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 PRINCESS DIARIES
2 (DTS) LA VIDA ROSA
3 (DOLBY) FAST & FURIOUS
4 LA VIDA ROSA

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) Tel. (049) 411-1146
1 LA VIDA ROSA
2 (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES
3 (DTS) FAST & FURIOUS
4 LA VIDA ROSA

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(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 ENEMY OF THE GATES
2 LA VIDA ROSA
3 SOON TO OPEN
4 SOON TO OPEN

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2 KAMASUTRA
3 PUKYUTAN
4 (DTS) LA VIDA ROSA

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3 BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO

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2 RUSH HOUR 2
3 LA VIDA ROSA
4 BANYO QUEEN

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2 LA VIDA ROSA
3 CROCODILE
4 (DTS EX) ORIGINAL SIN

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7 RUSH HOUR 2
8 ORIGINAL SIN
9 A KNIGHT'S TALE
10 PRINCESS DIARIES

ERMITA 536-7809 TO 12
1 FAST & FURIOUS
2 HEART BREAKERS
3 A KNIGHT'S TALE
4 RUSH HOUR 2
5 LA VIDA ROSA
6 ORIGINAL SIN
7 PRINCESS DIARIES

NOVALICHES 935-3229 TO 31
1 RESERVE
2 FAST & FURIOUS
3 RESERVE
4 FAST & FURIOUS
5 LA VIDA ROSA
6 LA VIDA ROSA
7 ORIGINAL SIN
8 PRINCESS DIARIES

IMUS (046) 471-8168
1 FAST & FURIOUS
2 ORIGINAL SIN
3 HEART BREAKERS
4 PRINCESS DIARIES
5 LA VIDA ROSA
6 LA VIDA ROSA

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453
1 RUSH HOUR 2
2 A KNIGHT'S TALE
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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	FAST & FURIOUS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	ORIGINAL SIN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	HEART BREAKERS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	BANYO QUEEN
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	CROCODILE 2
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	ORIGINAL SIN
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	PANINDA/TEASER
ODEON	ORIGINAL SIN
ODEON-2	BORLESK QUEEN
ROBEN	PUKYUTAN
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	DUNGEON... / DRIVER
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	PUKYUTAN
REMAR	PUKYUTAN
REMAR-2	BURLESK QUEEN
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	LA VIDA ROSA
B	SISID (open Oct. 1, 2001 sneak preview)
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	PRINCESS DIARIES
CINEMA-2	FAST & FURIOUS
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
CINEMA-2	MANO MANO 2
CINEMA-3	PUKYUTAN
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	RUSH HOUR 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	PRINCESS DIARIES
CINEMA-6	A.I.
CINEMA-7	BURLESK QUEEN
CINEMA-8	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	PRINCESS DIARIES
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ENEMY AT THE GATES
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	A KNIGHT'S TALE
CINEMA-12	SCARY MOVIE 2
CINEMA-14	ORIGINAL SIN
CINEMA-15	BANYO QUEEN
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	ENEMY AT THE GATES
CINEMA-2	HEART BREAKERS
CINEMA-3	PRINCESS DIARIES
CINEMA-4	LA VIDA ROSA
CINEMA-5	ORIGINAL SIN
CINEMA-6	THE FAST & THE FURIOUS
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	RESERVE
CINEMA-2	RESERVE
CINEMA-4	RESERVE
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	APOY SA MAGDAMAG
CINEMA-2	ALFREDO LIM
CINEMA-4	RATRATAN

MTV sound education finals

AFTER a three-month period, the MTV and JVC Sound Education campaign draws to an end at the Hard Rock Café Singapore, where 10 finalists from the Southeast Asia region will gather for their chance at the music scholarship.

The finalists will perform on Sept. 28 before a panel of judges for the coveted music scholarship and a chance to win a trip to Japan to cut a CD at the Victor Records Studio.

Jay Marquez and Ma. Theresa "Girl" Dizon will represent the Philippines.

Other finalists are Netnapa Harnrochanavut and Supongsak Litkitpittayakorn from Thailand; Kelvin Lu Hee Wah and Lim Peik Chian from Malaysia; Lee Shin Yi, Linda and Fe Wei Ling from Singapore; Kiky Sri Mulyani and Yorikha Miranty Shahrizal from Indonesia.

Hosted by MTV VJ Sarah Meier, the MTV and JVC Sound Education Finals will also feature up-and-coming Singapore-based band Urban Exchange as guest performers for the evening.

"Judging from the numerous entries we received, it is evident that there is a vast pool of talent in this region," notes Peter Bullard, senior vice president of MTV Asia and managing director of MTV Southeast Asia.

"MTV Asia is thrilled to develop budding talents in Southeast Asia and we are glad of JVC's support in this campaign."

Hitoshi Tachikawa, general manager, corporate marketing department and sales support center of JVC Asia Pte. Ltd. says: "JVC has been very active in supporting sports and music events under the corporate credo, 'Contributing to culture and serving society.'

"Though this is the first time we are conducting a music-related campaign regionally in Southeast Asia, I am every pleased that our debut partnership with MTV has generated such high level of awareness and interest among the youths of this region."

Westlake grand opening

PARK Avenue, the hottest pop-variety band in the local music scene, will grace the grand opening tonight of West lake Dimsum and Deli on Fuentes Circle, Eastwood City Walk, Libis, Quezon City.

Expect a night of Orientalia and riveting pop, jazz and R&B music as rendered by Park Avenue artists Maricris Correa, Laura Austria and Joshua Suaso (vocals), Benzon Ang (drums), Eddie Boy Recto (guitar), Francis Sioson (keyboards) and Ronnie Babat (bass).

Park Avenue is managed by Humble Beginnings Entertainment Production Inc. Call 453-1965 or 0917-964-5287.

ENTERTAINMENT

Louie C. Camino, Editor

Clash of social classes and attitudes

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

AFTER viewing **Wang Xiaoshuia's** "Beijing Bicycle," we were able to get more information on the film and its director that adds to our knowledge, not just about this production but also about some larger trends on the Chinese film scene:

The movie is a project produced by Taiwan movie critic **Peggy Chiao**. It is one of six movies that make up the "stories of three cities" group project that intends to depict life today in Beijing, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

As the filmmaker sees it, the delivery boy sees his bicycle as his "passport" to life in Beijing. His way of thinking "reflects the fact that ownership of a bicycle was formerly a status symbol in China, a country which was once symbolized by bicycles.

To the city boy, the bicycle is one of the "must have" items among his friends, and is an important part of his social identity.

This film won prizes at the 51st Berlin Film Festival: The judges' special award, and the best actor award for its two young lead actors.

Two well-known actresses, **Zhou Xun** ("Suzhou River") and **Gao Yuanyuan** ("Spicy Love Soup") appear as modern women living in Beijing in this film.

The bicycle is important to the boys because the country bumpkin believes that he will not be able to survive in Beijing without a bike, and the young student cannot part with it because he needs it to maintain his status among his peers.

The film ends in violence as a cautionary device to show that, unless China's materialism and too rapid rush toward modernity isn't checked, the results could be tragic, not just for these two boys but for the country as a whole.

The filmmaker further observes, "In China, the differences between city and country are so great that country folks are overcome with a longing for the wealth and glamor of city life. The pursuit of money and material things is the country lad's only motivation in the movie.

"On the other hand, the student is a rebel. Traditional values have lost their significance to him. To him, the functional role of the bike has been replaced by its capacity for status and vanity. He wants a bicycle not for transportation, but for fun."

Asked what it was like, working on a co-production between Taiwan's Are Light Films and Beijing Film Studio, Wang likened the experience to shooting "underground," as opposed to filming "above-ground" in the traditional Beijing Film Studio way.

"Shooting above-ground, getting approval is a constant concern, and it affects the way you think about your movie. After a while, it becomes a restriction. This is not good for a director.

"Shooting underground is only a mode of production with more freedom. It results in more and more production units, each searching for its own definition. Under the present system, shooting underground allows for more versatility and independence."

On the look of his movie: "We made it a point to present contrasting images, to show the clash of attitudes—bicycles, alleys, courtyards, sunbathing old men, go-getting young men, city folks who live in typical Beijing quarters, and country folks who long for the city. SThese contradictory and chaotic images represent what's interesting about China today."

On the shooting phrase: "We had a hard time finding alleys. During the shoot, the crew had to move from one location to another to finish a scene. In the chase scenes, we couldn't repeat locations because I wanted to use a new angle every time. We also had to deal with residents and street organizations.

"I came out of the experience with the realization that traditional Chinese alleyways are disappearing. I was torn between lamenting over their disappearance and feeling that people are entitled to better living conditions."

It appears that the filmmaker experienced an attitudinal clash of his own!

Why Rio feels no pain

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

I HAD a good chat with **Rio Diaz-Cojuangco** before she flew to the US for further treatment.

You have read about her miraculous bout with cancer, but talking to her face to face is something else. There I was like everyone else trying to be solicitous, thinking she was in pain, but all she makes you feel is her joy.

Rio's unwavering faith in God has made her accept her fate. For a moment there, I felt like I was the one who needed medical treatment and not she.

If there's one thing Rio does not like, it's people worrying about her.

"It makes it seem like I'm a burden if people keep crying about my condition," she said. "I've given it all to the Lord. That's why everything is painless."

She even manages to laugh at her predicament. "I guess what my family is really afraid of is that they might also get cancer! We would joke about it and say that our clan used to be known for beauty queens but now we're famous because of my cancer."

Her positive attitude is truly infectious. Thanks, Rio, for strengthening my faith even more. In the face of death you still live love and love life to the fullest.

Mabuhay ka, Rio!

Just asking

READERS e-mailed to ask why **Gary Valenciano's** "X-Static"concert features so many other guest performers. Is it a strategy to lure more fans? Can't Gary V. fill up the Big Dome on his own anymore? Perhaps Gary is beyond all that and just wants to share the limelight with others. Knowing Gary, it's no big deal to him. He's not only Mr. Pure Energy; he's also Mr. Pure Heart.

Will **Janice de Belen** be filing for annulment of her marriage to **John Estrada** soon? I'll keep you posted as soon as I get word from Janice.

Speaking of John, a reader from Cebu e-mailed me that during Ratsky's opening in that southern city, John and **Vanessa del Bianco** were obviously so enamored with each other.

Is there still a chance for **Ryan Agoncillo** and his half-Chinese girlfriend to reconcile? Hope Ryan does not kill me for spilling the beans but I guess word will get around sooner or later. Maybe it's just the strain of a long-distance relationship that caused their split-up.

His ex-girlfriend is in Canada. Do I hear Ryan fanatics rejoicing?

My party friends had a good laugh hearing **Mickey Ferriols** deny the rumors that she went overboard in their favorite hangout. As they put it, "We all know how wild she can get. Maybe she was drunk when she was being interviewed and so she could not think straight. She was too drunk to even remember what she did."

How could an angel break a heart, a glass and a promise?

Shooting show

"SHOOTFEST," a 30-minute weekly show, now airs Thursdays on IBC-13 at 11:30 p.m. It is the first of its kind on Philippine TV, exclusively covering the sport of shooting. This is a highly competitive and exciting sport where the Philippines has consistently produced world champions.

Only on its third episode, the show is already being talked about by shooters and non-shooters alike. The show focuses on shooting as a sport, with special segments on celebrity shooters. Well-known personalities such as Rep. **Jackie Enrile, Eddie Garcia** and **Frank Chavez** have graced the show.

Catch it tonight and find out that there's a safe and entertaining side to the sport.

For feedback, e-mail *wateringhole2000@yahoo.com*

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LA VIDA ROSA - R 18 12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50	ORIGINAL SIN - R 18 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50	FAST & FURIOUS - R 18 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

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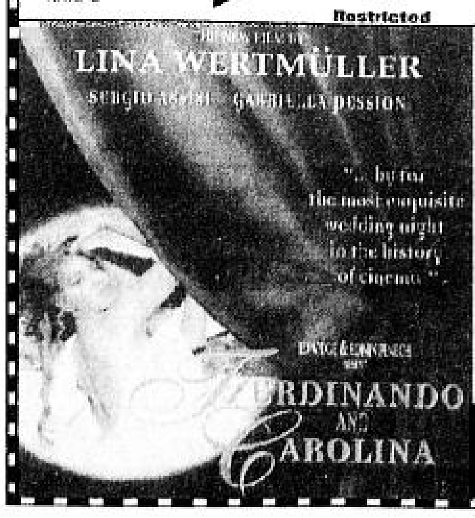

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FERDINANDO & CAROLINA

The life and times of Italy's King Ferdinando are played for laughs in this comic historical piece directed by controversial director Lina Wertmuller. On his death bed in the 1820s, King Ferdinando I of Naples tries to escape the ghosts of his bloody kingship by remembering his younger days, when he was allowed to go hunting and have fun, and inventing love games. Then he was obliged to marry Maria Carolina of Austria, daughter of Empress Maria Theresa, in a political marriage: unexpectedly, they became happy lovers, until court power games divided them, and a different historical season arrived.

Language: Italian w/ English sub-titles

WARNING! The film is suitable for adults only due to strong sexual images, pervasive nudity, violence and language.

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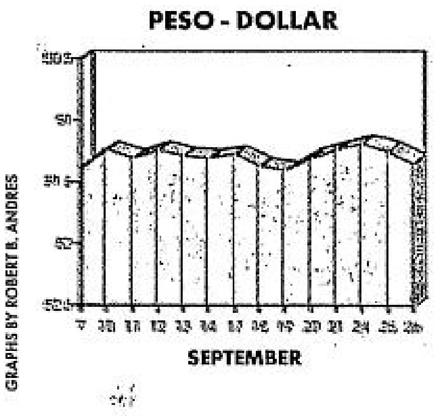

GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

₱ 51.34 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 26, 2001

¥ 117.30 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 26, 2001

GOLD:$291.00/292.00
per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 26, 2001

GSIS quits bid committee

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT Service Insurance System withdrew Monday from the committee formed to oversee the bidding for the reinsurance of some $6.5 billion worth of assets of state-owned National Power Corp.

Napocor president Jesus Alcordo yesterday said the GSIS representatives who attended the joint committee meeting on Monday "decided to withdraw on instructions of GSIS president Winston Garcia."

Napocor also said it would proceed with the scheduled auction today. A Napocor source also said the GSIS was planning to hold its own auction.

A person familiar with the situation, however, said the GSIS would not hold its own auction "in deference" to Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, who chairs the joint bidding committee.

A source in the Department of Finance said the DOF, in a letter to the GSIS, had urged the state-owned insurance company to participate in today's bidding and not to pursue with its planned bidding "for that is tantamount to insubordination."

Earlier this month, President Macapagal-Arroyo issued Memorandum Order No. 30 creating the joint committee to oversee the reinsurance of Napocor's assets in a bid to settle the dispute between the power agency and the GSIS.

The joint committee is chaired by the finance secretary with the general manager and the senior vice president of the GSIS, the president of Napocor and the energy secretary as its members.

The new twist in the GSIS-Napocor row came about after the state-owned power company, in last Monday's meeting, excluded in the pre-qualified bidders' list one of the reinsurance brokers recommended by the GSIS, Alcordo said.

Last Tuesday, the bidding committee named the following pre-qualified bidders for the Napocor reinsurance auction: Heath Lambert, Aon Energy, Marsh & McLennan Cos. Inc., Arthur J. Gallagher, Alexander Forbes Ltd.

GSIS/ B3

BLC rejects ALI's offer

By Doris C. Dumlao

BONIFACIO Land Corp., a unit of property developer Metro Pacific Corp., has rejected the lone bid submitted by Ayala Land Inc. for a 55-percent stake in a project involving the development of a portion of Fort Bonifacio Global City.

"After careful consideration, the board of directors of BLC has decided not to accept the offer submitted by ALI," MPC president and CEO Ricardo Pascua told the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday.

Pascua explained that certain terms in the offer of ALI were not in accordance with the terms and conditions stipulated in BLC's disposition program.

"MPC is reviewing all its strategic options with the end in view of strengthening its balance sheet and enhancing the value of its businesses," Pascua said,

ALI had offered only P1.23 billion for the 55-percent stake in a new company to be spun off by Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. The new company will develop an 18.9-hectare portion of the Global City. ALI's bid translates to only P11,800 per square meter or 65 percent less than the price at which the property was acquired by the MPC-led consortium in 1995.

ALI had planned a mixed-use development for the property, with a low-density residential area. The company was planning to develop primarily subdivision lots, combined with townhouses and condominium.

The P1.23-billion bid for the project, ALI said, was "commensurate with the relatively lower densities afforded by the land use terms."

ALI was the only company that submitted an offer in the bidding held last Sept. 17 although two other groups were also pre-qualified to participate in the auction such as Robinsons Land Corp. of the Gokongweis and a consortium led by the PentaCapital Investment Corp.

With BLC's move, analysts said the MPC-led consortium might be forced to develop the project itself or wait for a better time to hold another bidding or a negotiated sale for the stake in the new company.

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Bidding blocks

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

PERHAPS I don't have what it takes to grasp just exactly how the government works. I have this mental block when it comes to Napocor's bidding system.

Napocor, at first, had only a simple wish. Napocor just wanted to meddle with the work of the GSIS. Napocor wanted to handle its own insurance.

Legally, the GSIS should take care of all the insurance needs of all government outfits. Legally, these include state-owned monopoly Napocor.

Now the work of Napocor involves electricity. The GSIS is the one in the insurance business. Napocor is probably ignorant of the Shakey's Pizza principle.

And that is, Shakey's honors its agreement with the bank, which says that the bank does not make pizza, and Shakey's does not encash checks.

* * *

IN a way, the GSIS told Napocor to please just go to hell. Napocor then waged a publicity war against the GSIS. Then the GSIS got back at Napocor. Trouble, in short.

Napocor insisted that it should handle—all by its lonesome self—the bidding for its own insurance needs to make it . . . well, transparent. Alleluia!

And so two weeks ago, to settle the conflict, which is embarrassing this cute administration before the international insurance business, Gloriaetta issued a memo.

It created a committee, made up of two representatives each from Napocor and the GSIS, plus Finance Secretary Jose Isidro "the Whiz" Camacho as chair.

It also ordered an open, competitive bidding for Napocor's insurance needs. No wonder, the committee is railroading it. I guess that's how it works in the government!

* * *

NAPOCOR'S insurance coverage expires this month. Thus the committee had only until Sept. 15 to do its work. It should award the contract by then.

Unfortunately, the Whiz had to go abroad to China. He got back only on Sept. 17. In other words, he was just in time for the committee to miss its deadline.

To think, the committee only had five days to do its work. It did not have much time. Thus the GSIS wanted to pre-qualify the top 10 insurance brokers in the world.

Without much ado, Napocor president Jesus Alcordo disqualified two of those top brokers. At the same time, he openly pushed for two brokers to get the award.

One is the insurance broker called AON and the other is a certain Higgins. Higgins who? How come it doesn't ring a bell? It is not one of the world's top 10!

* * *

NOW that certain Higgins and the GSIS never had the pleasure of knowing each other. It is a complete unknown. Ah, *basta*, Alcordo wanted it, period.

As for Alcordo's pet, AON, well, it is the world's second biggest insurance broker. Moreover, it is represented here by the one and only . . . well, Ayala group.

Two years ago, however, Napocor itself blacklisted the Ayala-backed AON. The broker has a bad record with Napocor. Well, it seems to run away at the last minute.

In 1999, you see, AON won the bidding for Napocor's insurance. Two days after it got the award, AON told the GSIS that it was backing out due to "compelling reasons."

It turned out that AON just could not sell the Napocor insurance to underwriters overseas at the price that AON itself quoted. Wrong mistake, *ba*!

* * *

AND so, ladies and gentlemen, that is the very same broker that Alcordo is forcing everybody in the committee to deal with, thank you. Why?

I have been asking the Whiz that very same question myself. You see, the Whiz is the Cabinet member in charge of the GSIS. At the same time, he is the chair of Napocor.

Something somehow had to give. Their war was turning into an embarrassment for this cute administration. The two were creating much more noise than cats in heat.

So over coffee one time, I told the Whiz that it didn't look good in the eyes of the business community. People thought it was all about this thing called . . . well, commission.

The Whiz pooh-poohed my concern. Never mind that it was already what everybody was saying. People were already laughing about it. And at Glorinetta!

* * *

ME, I bet my two month's worth of beer money that the committee was the brainchild of the Whiz himself. And the idea could have worked, you know, no question about it.

The problem was, the Whiz left his boy, Finance Undersecretary Antonio Bernardo, to do the work. And what work he has done!

Bernardo decided for everybody to disqualify two of those top 10 brokers. I just don't know if the Whiz knew about that move all along, and he was absent at the right time.

Also missing conveniently in the committee meetings was Energy Secretary Vicente Perez, who was supposed to represent Napocor. Hmm.

I thought Gloriaetta said it should be an "open competitive" bidding. So why were top brokers excluded right away? Maybe somebody was just afraid of them.

* * *

NOW all this brouhaha will cost us, the taxpayers. Thanks to the terrorist attack on America on Sept. 12, insurance premiums are going from 50 to 100 percent.

Originally, the GSIS scheduled the bidding for Sept. 10, which is even before that horrible incident in New York. It should have been awarded weeks ago.

The GSIS informed Napocor about the scheduled bidding as early as Aug. 10. Then, thanks to Alcordo, the bidding was postponed. He wanted to do it himself.

Alcordo also wanted a two-month extension for the bidding. Never mind, too, that once the Napocor policy expires, it is expired, and no broker would agree to an extension.

And so today, the GSIS and Napocor are conducting their own separate biddings. Which one will the Whiz bless?

The way things turned in the "transparency" committee, it seems to me Napocor has the upper hand. I just don't know if it really has the legal mandate.

Gov't to proceed with sale of 10% stake in Meralco

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT will proceed with its plan to completely privatize power retailer Manila Electric Co. despite bearish market conditions, Finance Secretary Jose Camacho said yesterday.

"The schedule is still within the year, but the form has not been determined. We are more inclined to do it through equity derivatives," Camacho told reporters.

"We intend to push through within the year, whether or not the market recovers," he said.

Instead of selling its shares in Meralco, the government may issue warrants covered by a "put-and-call" option, Camacho said.

This will allow the government to buy back the shares if their prices rise or compel investors to buy them if prices fall.

Camacho said this would allow the government to earn from any future improvement in Meralco's share prices.

"While we want to monetize these shares, we also want to have a share of the upside at a time when the market is bad," he said.

The government has a 10-percent stake in Meralco, with the national government holding 7 percent and the Presidential Commission on Good Government owning 3 percent.

Camacho said the sale would be executed through a private placement.

He said, however, it was not yet clear whether the PCGG would sell its stake together with the national government.

Proceeds from the sale will be used to reduce the country's budget deficit, which is estimated to reach P145 billion this year. As of August, the budget gap stood at P99.53 billion.

Meralco's A shares ended P1 lower on Wednesday at P25, while its B shares, which are open to foreigners, went down 50 centavos to P33.50.

The Philippine composite index fell 17.46 points to 1,144.28 on worries over the impact of a protracted war against terrorism.

Sy unloads 2.45% stake in Republic Cement

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GROUP of retail tycoon Henry Sy has unloaded its minority stake in Republic Cement Corp., the country's second-biggest cement firm.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, SM Development Corp. said it sold all its 76.12 million shares in Republic Cement for close to P400 million.

Persons familiar with the matter said SMDC sold its 2.45-percent stake in Republic Cement to South Western Cement Ventures Inc., a major stockholder of Republic Cement before Republic Cement was merged with three other cement companies.

The merger of Republic Cement, Fortune Cement Corp., Iligan Cement Corp. and Zeus Holdings Corp. led to a new company that is now known as the Republic Cement group of companies.

SMDC gained a minority stake in the merged company through its shareholdings in Fortune Cement. It owned 48.24 percent of Fortune Cement and an affiliate, Sysmart Corp., owned another 3.09 percent.

SMDC had since reduced its stake in Republic Cement to give way to British cement giant Blue Circle Industries Plc., which previously owned only 20 percent of Fortune Cement. Blue Circle then proceeded to consolidate all four companies where it held substantial interests.

On Tuesday, some one billion shares of Republic Cement were crossed at the stock exchange. Analysts said this transaction could be part of another consolidation being undertaken by Republic Cement's stockholders.

Republic Cement's strategic partner, Blue Circle, was recently acquired by French cement giant Lafarge SA that, in turn, controlled another big cement company in the Philippines, Southeast Asian Cement Holdings Inc.

Analysts said it was possible Seacem would soon be integrated into Republic Cement.

Digitel scores Globe for raising debt issue

By Abigail L. Ho

DIGITAL Telecommunications Philippines Inc. said on Tuesday it would not give in to threats by Globe Telecommunications Inc. to "isolate" it from other carriers over a P206-million debt issue.

"Digitel will not allow itself to be threatened into acquiescence. We will not back down, not on this issue and not when we go head on as Globe's competitor," Digitel said in a statement.

Globe claims Digitel owes some P206 million, a figure that Digitel disputes.

Digitel regulatory affairs manager Ricardo Dira says Digitel's obligations are closer to P162 million.

Digitel maintains that it has yet to reach a "mutually acceptable" way to compute how much it owes Globe.

Globe is insisting that without such a "formula," the terms of its compensation agreements with other carriers must apply to Digitel, a position that Digitel finds "unacceptable."

Digitel said Globe's agreements with other carriers were negotiated separately and independently.

The Gokongwei-owned telecommunications firm said it declined to sign any agreement with other mobile phone providers precisely because no "mutually acceptable compensation formula" could be reached.

"Globe must, therefore, negotiate with Digitel, and it should not use the media to justify a claim that has no legal basis yet," it stressed.

Digitel said despite a deadlock, it had been trying its best to negotiate with Globe "in good faith." It said it also had not resorted to using a third party to settle the matter as the agreement was bilateral in nature.

Globe said in a hearing at the National Telecommunications Commission on Friday that should Digitel refuse to pay its P206-million debt, it would call for Digitel's isolation from other carriers.

Digitel retorted that it actually did Globe a favor in late 1999 when it granted Globe's request for direct interconnection.

"It was Globe that requested Digitel sometime in late 1999 to directly link up because its system then was congested as all calls, regardless of carriers, were being passed on to its PLDT (Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.) link. Globe wanted Digitel calls to bypass PLDT through a direct link-up so that Globe could improve its service and decongest its system," Digitel said.

MWSS drops M. Water case

THE METROPOLITAN Waterworks and Sewerage System has dropped its case questioning a tariff adjustment granted to Manila Water Co. Inc. by an international court.

Records of the Court of Appeals showed that the MWSS and Manila Water filed a joint manifestation withdrawing a case filed by the MWSS questioning an 18-centavo-per-cubic-meter increase granted by the International Chamber of Commerce to Manila Water.

The ICC acted as an appeals panel after the MWSS board questioned the rates hike approved by the MWSS-Regulatory Office. *Christine A. Gaylican*

CEU readies ₱150-M share buyback plan

By Doris C. Dumlao

CENTRO Escolar University, one of the country's most profitable schools, is embarking on a new program to buy back its shares to improve its earnings prospects.

In an interview, CEU vice chair Ernesto Echauz said CEU would buy back 4 to 5 percent of its 372.4 million shares.

The school's board of directors agreed to earmark up to P150 million out of the company's retained earnings of P227 million for the fiscal year ending March 31 this year to finance the buyback program.

Echauz told the INQUIRER that it would be the first time that CEU, one of two schools listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange, would undertake a share buyback program.

"The buyback program is seen to improve the university's earnings per share and boost its market prices, which have been depressed by poor macroeconomic conditions," Echauz said.

Since companies do not pay dividends to treasury-held shares, the buyback program is expected to improve CEU's earnings per share to 71 centavos from the existing 67 to 68 centavos per share, Echauz said.

"Since the PSE was badly battered by a series of misfortunes both in the economic and political front, several listed companies with cash to spare had been attracted to investing in their own shares. The move is reasonable considering that there are a lot of listed companies with strong fundamentals

DISCLOSURES

SM Development Corp. has sold 76.1 million shares of **Republic Cement Corp.** at P5.19 each.

* * *

EQUITABLE PCI Bank Inc. has appointed Corazon de la Paz as director and vice chair, and Higinio Macadaeg Jr. as executive vice president. Pedro Florescio III resigned as senior vice president. Rene Buenaventura was promoted as executive vice president.

* * *

BALABAC Resources & Holdings Co. Inc. has moved its annual stockholders' meeting from Sept. 25 to Jan. 30.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. Inc. has declared cash dividends of 50 centavos per share on its series E, K, O and U 10-percent cumulative convertible preferred stocks payable on Oct. 31 for stockholders of record as of Oct. 5. Also declared were cash dividends of 50 centavos per share on its series C, D, J, T and X 10-percent cumulative convertible preferred stocks, all payable on Nov. 25 for stockholders of record as of Oct. 25.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Forum Pacific Inc.** were Geronimo Velasco Jr., Peter Salud, William Gatchalian, Donato Almeda, Elvira Ting, Aristeo Cruz, Federico Puno, Arthur Ponsaran, Lamberto Mercado Jr., Evelyn de la Rosa and Joaquin Obieta.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Philippine National Construction Corp.** were Ronaldo Llamas, Garth Noel Tolentino, Pablo Galvez, Wilfredo Cu, Victor Ziga and Rio Espiritu. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	52	52.5	51	51	294,800
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	25	25	24.5	24.5	229,400
Global Business Bank Inc.	78	78	78	78	6,400
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	206	207	199	199	56,980
Philippine National Bank	50	50	49	50	186,200
Phil. Savings Bank	28.5	29	28	29	6,000
Security Bank Corp.	18	18	17.5	17.5	20,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	18.5	18.5	16	16.75	4,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	10,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1250	1275	1210	1235	1,490
Sun Life Financial Serv.	935	955	935	950	700
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.32	0.32	2,250,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	630	640	630	640	443,260
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	500,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	487.5	487.5	482.5	487.5	92,560
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.023	0.023	0.022	0.023	10,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	25.5	25.5	24	25	38,100
Manila Electric Co. B	33.5	34.5	30.5	33.5	2,045,600
Petron Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.34	1.34	1,829,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	10,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	0.88	0.9	0.88	0.88	13,330,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.54	1.54	1.42	1.46	3,062,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	100,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.04	1.04	1	1	20,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.3	90,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.12	1.12	1,729,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.04	2.04	2.04	2.04	20,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.6	5.8	5.6	5.7	277,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11.75	12	11.75	11.75	8,400
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	24.75	25	24.25	25	14,800
RFM Corp.	2	2.26	1.98	2.18	6,347,000
San Miguel Corp. A	38.5	39	38	39	53,500
San Miguel Corp. B	50.5	50.5	50	50	118,400
Universal Robina Corp.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	250,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	90,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	1,201,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.42	1.42	1.4	1.4	870,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.64	0.64	60,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	30,000
APC Group Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	100,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	50,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	10,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.175	0.18	0.175	0.175	450,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.06	1.08	1,051,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	120,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	230,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	24	24	23	23.25	195,700
Global Equities Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	100,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	30,000
Ionics Inc.	8.1	8.2	8	8	225,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.58	1.58	1.56	1.56	106,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	4,300,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.013	7,000,000
Medco Holdings	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	70,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.58	0.61	0.58	0.6	670,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	230,000
Music Corp.	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	140,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	10,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4.65	4.65	4.65	4.65	2,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.15	0.12	0.15	360,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	20,000
Interphil Labs Inc. B	0.7	0.7	0.63	0.63	1,050,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	20,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	1,100,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.73	0.74	0.73	0.74	90,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	80,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.47	0.48	0.47	0.47	1,440,000
Philippine Racing Club	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.8	23,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	22.75	22.75	22.5	22.5	53,400
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	635	635	630	630	800
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0018	0.0018	0.0018	0.0018	11,000,000
RFM Corp. - Pref.	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	8,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	600
Philweb.Com Inc. -Warrants	0.007	0.007	0.0065	0.0065	6,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6	6	6	6	3,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.35	4.35	4.25	4.3	10,215,000
Cityland Development Corp.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	4,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	300,000
C & P Homes, Inc.	0.15	0.155	0.15	0.15	2,590,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	1,060,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	10,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.44	1.46	1.4	1.4	1,372,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	510,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.1	6.1	5.9	6	5,406,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	200,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.3	0.3	0.25	0.25	220,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	140,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.03	0.03	0.026	0.026	10,200,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	50,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	5,700,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	30,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	1,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	818,470	45,215,605.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	81,719,120	462,636,010.00
PRO	21,667,000	79,295,300.00
Mining	16,340,000	473,100.00
OIL	1,000,000	4,000.00
GRAND TOTALS :	121,544,590	587,624,015.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	463.43	DOWN 15.28
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,616.70	DOWN 8.26
PRO	457.02	DOWN 12.59
Mining	1,183.56	UP 1.12
OIL	1.47	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	860.46	UP 1.55
Composite	1,144.28	DOWN 17.46

NO. OF ADVANCES: 14; NO. OF DECLINES: 51; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 28
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 93; NO. OF TRADES: 2,033

CURRENCIES

Sept. 26, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.083541	1.000000	51.2820
Japan	Yen	0.009219	0.008508	0.4363
United Kingdom	Pound	1.593780	1.470900	75.4307
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.139094	0.128370	6.5831
Switzerland	Franc	0.681729	0.629168	32.2650
Canada	Dollar	0.689889	0.636699	32.6512
Singapore	Dollar	0.611410	0.564270	28.9369
Australia	Dollar	0.535611	0.494315	25.3495
Bahrain	Dinar	2.874267	2.652661	136.0338
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.288945	0.266667	13.6752
Brunei	Dollar	0.610274	0.563222	28.8832
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000114	0.000105	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.024382	0.022502	1.1539
UAE	Dirham	0.295082	0.272331	13.9657
Korea	Won	0.000834	0.000770	0.0395
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.922900	47.3282
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.471871	24.1985
France	Franc	0.152450	0.140695	7.2151
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.418794	21.4766
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.067070	3.4395
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022878	1.1732
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000477	0.0245
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.155221	7.9600
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004603	0.2361
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005547	0.2845
Luxembourg	Franc	0.024789	0.022878	1.1732
Ireland	Punt	0.002933	0.002707	0.1388

Exports seen to contract by 15% this year

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE COUNTRY'S economic managers yesterday said that exports receipts this year were expected to contract by 15 percent from last year's figures.

This scenario, they said, would likely lead to as much as $2.2 billion in the country's balance of payments deficit and a drop in the dollar reserves to below $14 billion.

The forecast was made by the Macapagal economic team led by Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho and Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura during a discussion with foreign credit rating agencies yesterday.

"We told them that we are factoring in the possibility that exports will drop by 15 percent and not 10 percent as recently experienced. If this happens, there is a chance that the BOP deficit will reach as much as $2.2 billion and the gross international reserves will fall below $14 billion," said Buenaventura.

The BSP was targeting a BOP deficit of only $1.2 billion and a GIR level of more than $14 billion. A 10-percent drop in exports would lead to a BOP deficit of $1.9 billion and a GIR level of $13.4 billion.

The 15-percent contraction in exports, said the central bank chief, was already the worst case among the scenarios being considered by the economic managers. As of July, export receipts dropped by almost 10 percent.

Buenaventura said the weak exports would not necessarily mean lower domestic output.

"This should not have much an impact to our GDP," the central bank chief noted.

The government needs to raise $1.4 billion to finance the budget deficit in year 2002. The country, said Buenaventura, would also step up the utilization of soft loans from multilateral agencies to about 46 percent.

"We are trying to insulate ourselves as much as we can and we want to put up defenses. We still have a domestic economy to speak of," he said.

NSC to reopen early next year

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry-led evaluation committee will resume its search next month for an interim investor to take over National Steel Corp. following Malaysia's debt rehabilitation agency Pengurusan Danaharta Nasional Bhd.'s reaffirmation of its support to reopen the steel giant's Iligan factory soon.

This was revealed by Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II who expects NSC to resume operations early next year or more than two years after it was shut down by Hottick Investments Ltd.-Renong Bhd. in November 1999 due to its failure to pay P16 billion in obligations.

Roxas said Danaharta had already informed the DTI that it would participate in the evaluation committee to choose a suitable investor for NSC. Roxas said Danaharta, not Hottick-Renong, has primary jurisdiction over the 80-percent stake in NSC. Hottick-Renong earlier withdrew from the committee and opted to pursue its previous lease agreement.

"The committee was formed with Danaharta's consent and Hottick-Renong was included in the committee because Danaharta wanted it that way. With Hottick-Renong out, Danaharta will now take a more direct hand in process," Roxas said.

Roxas stressed that this process was the only way to ensure that NSC would open, free from any litigation, soon because Danaharta and the creditor banks have agreed to choose an investor that was mutually acceptable to both parties.

NSC has been idled for months because of a legal dispute between Hottick-Renong and the creditor banks on the liquidation of the steel giant's assets to cover for its loans.

But Roxas said that even if the committee would find an investor next month, the earliest that NSC would open would be on the first quarter next year. Last Friday, Roxas suspended the operations of the committee pending Danaharta's formal decision on Hottick-Renong's withdrawal

Only Voest Alpine submitted an offer for NSC while Cathay Pacific Steel Co. and Glencore International opted to wait for Danaharta's decision before submitting their bids. Allengoal has stood pat on its position that Hottick-Renong has the final say on what to do with the 80-percent share in NSC and it has submitted an enhanced rehabilitation plan for the steel giant.

Local airlines eye fare hike

TWO major local airlines yesterday bared plans to raise their fares in view of the decision of global insurers to increase their premiums and cap third party liability coverage.

Philippine Airlines, Asia's oldest, and the country's second largest Cebu Pacific Air, said they planned to pass on to passengers the higher insurance costs following last week's hijacker attacks in the United States.

"We heard that insurance premiums have risen up and we're due to renew our insurance next month. We're getting nervous," Peggy Vera, Cebu Pacific vice president for corporate planning, said in a telephone interview.

Flag carrier PAL is also planning to collect an insurance surcharge from passengers, president Avelino Zapanta said in a radio interview.

Pedro Benedicto, president of the Philippines' Insurance and Surety Association, said insurance premiums for airlines had risen nearly 15 times since the air attacks on the United States.

Also, global insurers have capped third-party war and terrorism insurance at $50 million following the attacks, leaving airlines without much of their former war risk insurance cover and prompting many governments to offer help to their carriers.

On Tuesday, President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the finance, transport and justice departments to draft plans to aid local airlines facing higher insurance coverage.

"In our case, we applied with the Civil Aeronautics Board for a P300 surcharge. So passengers will be paying an additional P300 for the incremental insurance premium.

Hopefully, when things go back to normal, we can remove that," Vera said.

Cebu Pacific, a unit of conglomerate JG Summit Holdings, said it was awaiting the approval of the board and was hoping to start collecting the surcharge on Oct. 1.

JG Summit closed two centavos lower on Wednesday at P1.56, as the main index dropped 1.5 percent to 1,144.28.

The airline needs $500 million third-party liability insurance coverage, far above the current limit of $50 million.

It was due to start its overseas expansion when the attacks in the United States forced it to rethink its plans.

PAL's Zapanta said the carrier was also seeking the Civil Aeronautics Board's approval for an insurance surcharge of about P300.

"Otherwise, the airline may not be able to provide its services," he said.

PAL is currently undergoing a debt rehabilitation program as a result of its near collapse in 1998 and needs $1.5 billion third-party liability insurance coverage.

Reuters

GSIS quits . . .

(From page B1)

and Agnew Higgins Pickering.

Alcordo said the GSIS wanted to include in the shortlist Jardine Lloyds Thompson Insurance Brokers Inc. and a deadlock ensued when Napocor disagreed.

"The committee chair ruled not to include Jardine and they (GSIS representatives) walked out (of the meeting)," Alcordo said.

Also, the Napocor chief stressed that he did not know any of the brokers involved. The statement was in reaction to allegations that he was rooting for a certain broker.

Jardine Lloyds is the current reinsurance broker of the Napocor policy, covering fixed assets such as power plants, substations and submarine transmission cables.

Alcordo earlier said that Napocor did not want to prequalify Jardine Lloyds because it did not get from the company the kind of service the power agency deserved.

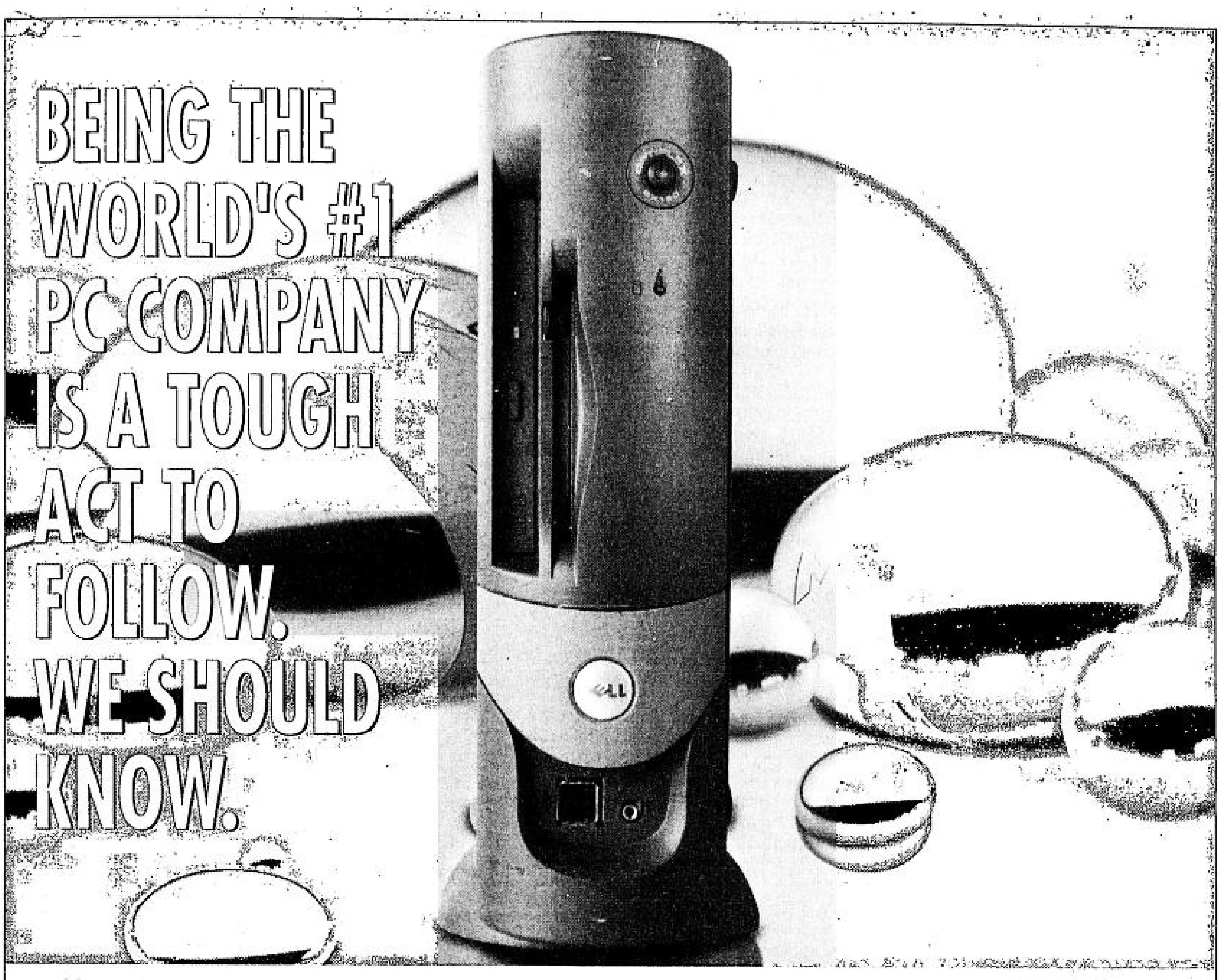
The amount of assets to be reinsured was reduced from $10 billion to $6.5 billion in view of the mothballing of certain assets.

Alcordo said there were indications that the GSIS would conduct its own bidding.

"We are afraid that such a move will only confuse the market," he said.

GSIS president Winston Garcia earlier said the GSIS has the mandate to insure government properties including those of Napocor.

But Alcordo insisted that the power firm should have a hand in the process since "we are the client and we pay for the premiums."



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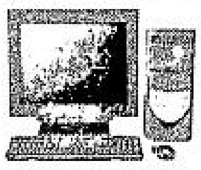
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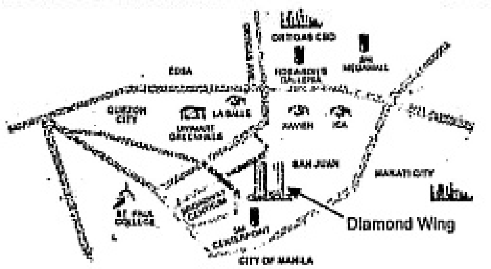

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Republic of the Philippines

COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS

Manila

RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE FILING OF CERTIFICATES OF CANDIDACY IN CONNECTION WITH THE NOVEMBER 26, 2001 ELECTIONS IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO.

x---x

BENIPAYO, Alfredo L.	*Chairman*
TANCANGCO, Luzviminda G.	*Commissioner*
JAVIER, Rufino S.B.	*Commissioner*
LANTION, Ralph C.	*Commissioner*
SADAIN, Mehol K.	*Commissioner*
BORRA, Resurreccion, Z.	*Commissioner*
TUASON, Florentino, Jr. A.	*Commissioner*

Promulgated : 25 September 2001

RESOLUTION NO. 4595

The Commission on Elections, by virtue of the powers vested in it by the Constitution, the Omnibus Election Code and other election laws, RESOLVED, as it hereby resolves to promulgate the following RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE FILING OF CERTIFICATES OF CANDIDACY in connection with the November 26, 2001 elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

SECTION 1. Certificate of Candidacy. – a) No person shall be elected Regional Official of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, unless he files a certificate of candidacy in the form prescribed by the Commission and within the period fixed herein.

b) No person shall be eligible for more than one office to be filled in the same election. If he files a certificate of candidacy for more than one office he shall not be eligible for either. However, before the expiration of the period for the filing of certificate of candidacy, he may declare under oath the office for which he desires to be eligible and cancel the certificate of candidacy for the other office or offices.

c) A person who has filed a certificate of candidacy may prior to the election, withdraw the same pursuant to Section 12 hereof. The filing of a withdrawal of certificate of candidacy shall not affect whatever civil, criminal or administrative liabilities a candidate may have incurred.

SECTION 2. Contents of certificate of candidacy. – The certificate of candidacy shall be under oath and shall state that the person filing it is announcing his candidacy for the office and constituency stated therein, that he is eligible for said office; the political party to which he belongs; his civil status, date and place of birth, residence, citizenship, whether natural-born or naturalized; if married, the full name of spouse; legal residence, giving the exact address, the precinct number, barangay, city or municipality and province where he is a registered voter; post office address for election purposes; profession or occupation or employment; that he will support and defend the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines and will maintain true faith and allegiance thereto; that he will obey the laws, orders, decrees, resolution, rules and regulations promulgated and issued by the duly-constituted authorities; that he is not a permanent resident of or an immigrant to a foreign country; that he assumes the foregoing obligations voluntarily without mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that the facts stated in the certificate are true and correct of his own personal knowledge.

He shall also affix his signature, thumb mark and his latest passport size photograph on the upper-right hand margin thereof, and if he so desires, to submit a statement in duplicate in not more than one hundred words, containing his bio-data and program of government.

The person filing the certificate of candidacy may include only one nickname or stage name by which he is generally or popularly known in the locality; In case a candidate uses the nickname, stage name or initials of another or uses more than one nickname his certificate of candidacy will not be given due course.

SECTION 3. Filing of certificate of candidacy. - The certificate of candidacy shall be filed in FIVE (5) LEGIBLE COPIES with the following offices of the Commission:

a. Regional Governor and Vice Governor, with the Regional Election Director of either Region 9 or 12; and

b. Member of the Regional Assembly, with the Provincial Election Supervisor of the legislative district concerned.

CERTIFICATES OF CANDIDACY NOT FILED WITH THE CORRECT OFFICES AS ENUMERATED ABOVE SHALL NOT BE CONSIDERED ACCEPTED.

The certificate of candidacy for a substitute shall be filed in accordance with Section 12 hereof.

The certificate of candidacy shall be filed by the candidate personally or by his duly authorized representative. No certificate of candidacy shall be accepted if filed by mail, telegram or facsimile.

The form of the certificate of candidacy shall be distributed free of charge, and no filing fee or notarial fee, if notarized by an authorized Comelec official, shall be imposed.

SECTION 4. Effect of filing certificate of candidacy. – a) Any person holding a public APPOINTIVE office including active members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and other officers and employees in government owned or controlled corporation, shall be considered ipso facto resigned from his office upon the filing of his certificate of candidacy.

b) Any ELECTIVE official running for any office other than the one which he is holding in a permanent capacity, shall not be deemed resigned. (Section 14 RA 9006)

SECTION 5. Period of filing of certificate of candidacy. – The certificate of candidacy shall be filed beginning September 27; 2001 up to October 2, 2001.

SECTION 6. Certificate of nomination of official candidates by political party. – The certificates of nomination by registered political parties or coalitions of their official candidates shall be filed not later than the last day of filing of certificates of candidacy as specified in Section 5 hereof, duly signed and attested under oath by the party president, chairman, secretary-general or any other officer duly authorized in writing to do so. If the certificate of nomination is filed after the certificate of candidacy has been filed, a copy of the latter shall be attached to the former.

No certificate of nomination or any amendment thereto shall be filed after the last day of filing of certificates of candidacy.

A candidate who has not been nominated by a registered political party, or whose nomination has not been submitted by a registered political party, or who accepts nominations from more than one registered political party, or whose nomination was filed after the last day of filing of certificates of candidacy, shall be considered as an independent candidate.

A political party shall nominate only one (1) candidate for Regional Governor and Vice-Governor; and not more than three (3) candidates for Regional Assemblymen in each Legislative District. Any nomination made in violation hereof shall not be given due course by the Commission.

SECTION 7. Ministerial duty of receiving and acknowledging receipt of certificate of candidacy; Recording. – The receiving officer as provided for in Section 3 hereof shall have the ministerial duty to receive and acknowledge receipt of the certificate of candidacy, and party nomination on or before the deadline for the filing thereof. He shall stamp every copy of each certificate with the date and time of its receipt and affix his signature thereon. Thereafter, he shall enter in a record book, the following data, leaving no space between entries; a) date and time of receipt of the certificate; b) assign consecutive number thereon; c) full name of the candidate; d) the office for which the candidate is running; e) the political party to which the candidate belongs and/or which nominated him, if any; f) the number of copies actually received; and g) the name of the officer or employee who actually received the certificate.

Immediately after 12:00 o'clock midnight of October 2, 2001, the receiving official shall close the record book by placing a line immediately after the last entry and writing the word "closed". He shall then affix his signature immediately below the word "closed" and indicate the date and exact time of closing.

No certificate of candidacy and/or party nomination shall be received after 12:00 o'clock midnight of October 2, 2001.

SECTION 8. Watchers of candidates, political parties and accredited citizens' arms. – Any candidate, political party accredited citizens arm may appoint a watcher in connection with the filing and reception of the certificates of candidacy. The watcher shall be allowed to stay within the premises of the authorized receiving office and to take note of any irregularity but without interrupting or disturbing official business.

Any watcher may report in writing to the Commission any irregularity, which may require appropriate action.

Watchers shall be entitled, upon request, to secure from the receiving officer copy of the full list of those who filed their certificates of candidacy and their respective positions.

SECTION 9. Reports on the delivery of certificates of candidacy. – Immediately after the last day of filing of certificates of candidacy, the receiving officer shall report by rush telegram or any available fastest means of communication to the Commission through the Law Department, a complete list of candidates who have filed their certificates of candidacy as entered in the record book.

On the same day, all copies of the certificates of candidacy filed with the field offices as provided in Section 3 hereof shall, except one copy to be retained by the receiving officer for his file, be delivered personally to the Law Department of the Commission in Manila by the following:

a. For ARMM Governor and Vice-Governor, by the Regional Election Director concerned or his authorized representative; and

b. For ARMM Regional Assemblyman, by the Provincial Election Supervisor concerned or his authorized representative.

SECTION 10. Distribution of copies. – The copies of the certificates of candidacy shall be distributed as follows:

a. First copy, to be retained by the Law Department;

b. Second copy, to the Commission en banc through the Chairman; and

c. Third copy, to the Election Records and Statistic Department.

SECTION 11. Preparation of the certified list of candidates. – The certified list of candidates shall be prepared by the Law Department.

It shall submit the certified list of the regional candidates to the Commission, not later than October 9, 2001.

SECTION 12. Withdrawal of certificate of candidacy. – Any candidate who desires to withdraw his candidacy may at any time before election day file a statement of withdrawal under oath in five (5) legible copies with the office where the certificates of candidacy was filed.

The regional election director or provincial election supervisor concerned shall, upon receipt of the withdrawal, retain a file copy and immediately forward to the Commission through the Law Department all the other copies. On the same date, he shall notify the Law Department by the fastest means of communication of the: a) full name of the candidate withdrawing; b) elective office concerned; c) political party of the candidate, if any; and d) substitution made, if any.

The field office concerned shall be notified of any withdrawal of candidacy and/or substitution filed with the Commission.

SECTION 13. Substitute candidate in case of death, disqualification or withdrawal of another. – If after the last day for the filing of certificates of candidacy, an official candidate of a registered political party dies, withdraws or is disqualified for any cause, he may be substituted by a candidate belonging to, and nominated by, the same political party. NO substitution shall be allowed for an independent candidate. The substitute candidate nominated by the political party concerned may file his certificate of candidacy as herein provided for the office affected not later than mid-day of the election. If the death or disqualification should occur between the day before the election and mid-day of election day, the substitute candidate may file the certificate with any board of election inspectors in the political subdivision where he is a candidate.

No person who has withdrawn his candidacy for a position shall be eligible as substitute candidate for any other position.

SECTION 14. Nuisance candidates. – The Commission may, motu proprio, or upon verified petition of an interested party, refuse to give due course to or cancel a certificate of candidacy, if it is shown that said certificate has been filed to put the election process in mockery or disrepute, or to cause confusion among the voters by the similarity of the names of registered candidates, or by other circumstances or acts which clearly demonstrate that the candidate has no bona fide intention to run for the office for which the certificate of candidacy has been filed and thus prevent a faithful determination of the true will of the electorate.

A verified petition to declare a duly registered candidate as a nuisance candidate shall be filed personally or through a duly authorized representative with the Commission by any registered candidate for the same office within five (5) days from the last day for filing of certificates of candidacy.

SECTION 15. Petition to deny due course to or to cancel certificate of candidacy. – A verified petition seeking to deny due course to or to cancel a certificate of candidacy may be filed with the Commission by any person within five (5) days from the last day of filing of certificates of candidacy exclusively on the ground that any material representation contained therein as required by law is false.

SECTION 16. Where to file petitions to declare a candidate as nuisance, or to deny due course or cancel a certificate of candidacy. – Petitions to declare a candidate as a nuisance, or to deny due course to or cancel certificate of candidacy shall be filed with the following offices of the Commission:

a. For ARMM Governor and Vice-Governor, with the Regional Election Director of the region where the certificate of candidacy was filed; and

b. For Regional Assemblyman, with the Provincial Election Supervisor concerned.

SECTION 17. Disqualification after filing of the certificate of candidacy. – Any candidate who in criminal action in which he is a party is declared by final judgment of a competent court guilty of, or who in a petition for disqualification is found by the Commission of having committed any act declared by law to be a ground for disqualification, shall be disqualified from continuing as a candidate, or from being proclaimed, or from holding office.

SECTION 18. Effect of disqualification. – Any candidate who have been declared by final judgment to be disqualified, shall not be voted for and the votes cast for him shall not be counted. If, before the election a candidate is not, for any reason, declared by final judgment to be qualified and he is voted for and received the winning number of votes in such election, the court or the Commission shall continue with the trial and hearing of the action, and upon motion of the complainant or intervenor, may during the pendency thereof, order the suspension of the proclamation of such candidate wherever the evidence of guilt is strong.

SECTION 19. Effectivity. – This resolution shall take effect on the day following its publication in two (2) daily newspaper of general circulation.

SECTION 20. Dissemination. – The Education and Information Department shall cause the publication of this resolution, and furnish copies hereof to all field offices of the Commission as well as to the President or Secretary of all registered political parties or coalitions.

SO ORDERED.

ALFREDO L. BENIPAYO
Chairman

LUZVIMINDA G. TANCANGCO
Commissioner

On leave
RUFINO S.B. JAVIER
Commissioner

RALPH C. LANTION
Commissioner

MEHOL K. SADAIN
Commissioner

RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Commissioner

FLORENTINO A. TUASON, JR.
Commissioner

(PDI - Sept. 27, 2001)

People, Events & Products

Makati (Sports) Club ballroom affair

The Makati (Sports) Club will hold its grand ballroom affair on Friday, Sept. 28, 6:30 p.m. at the Ayala Banquet Hall of the Clubhouse. The second biggest club event billed "A Starry, Starry Night in September" will treat members, dependents and guests to an evening of fun, music, relaxation, and all-night dancing to live music. Attendees will also have a chance to win exciting prizes in the raffle draws courtesy of Bankard, Asian Imex Enterprises Inc. and Moldex Realty Marketing Inc. For more information, call Joyce or Marian at 817-87-31 to 39.

City Lite Urban Jazzathon II at Rockwell

Don't you miss Urban Jazzathon II. If the first Urban Jazzathon was a hit, expect this one to knock your socks off. The event features the 11-piece Ugoy-Ugoy jazz ensemble, acid jazz proponents Parliament Syndicate and Sandwich. The event happens at 9 p.m. this Friday, Sept. 28 at the Power Plant Plaza, Rockwell. It is sponsored by TGI Fridays, New York Life, Globe Handyphone, Hi-Lander and Shell Citibank Gold MasterCard. For inquiries, call the City Lite hotline at 633-8803.

Negros trade fair ongoing

New handicrafts and food products from Negros Island takes centerstage at the 14th edition of the annual Negros Trade Fair ongoing until Sept. 30 at the Megatrade Hall 1, Building B, 5th floor of the SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City. At least 61 producers are participating in the show, which is being organized by the Association of Negros Producers headed by its president Marivic Rio. Regular market hours will be from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

Health expo at Century Park Hotel

A ONE-day Health Expo on Anti-Aging and Cardiac Wellness will be held on Sunday, Sept. 30, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The health exposition will showcase free tasting on the latest scientifically tested health products on anti-aging and cardiac wellness. Health World Clinics will provide free blood pressure check-up, blood sugar and cholesterol tests and eye examination at designated hours. Interested parties can call Grace at 636-7933 or 632-9989.

Marriage preparation program

COUPLES who are seriously considering getting married, or are not yet ready to get married but are serious with their relationships, are invited to attend the Catholic Engaged Encounter (CEE) weekend from Sept. 28 to 30, at the Manresa Retreat House in Del Monte, Quezon City. The CEE is a marriage preparation program, conducted in a weekend format and given to couples preparing for marriage. During the weekend, couples are given the opportunity to examine their lives together through communication. It is a time for couples to share their feelings, hopes, disappointments, joys, frustrations and to do so openly and honestly in a face to face, heart to heart setting designed to deepen and enrich their relationship with each other and with God. The program is run by a group of volunteer couples and a priest. For more information, call Fr. Dave Clay at 523-3361; Dado and Cory Hipolito at 810-0222; Sam and Marin Uy, 256-5275; Robbie and Bernadette Fabian, 829-6182; Chin and Lorna Fernandez, 744-3209; Ike and Ana Madamba, 726-6568; and Vinchy and Elisha Lirios, 721-4153 or e-mail vinchyandelisha@yahoo.com.

Public forum on biotech rice

A PUBLIC forum on biotechnology-derived rice will be held on Sept. 28 in the Science City of Munoz, Nueva Ecija. The event is being coordinated by the Department of Agriculture-Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice), the national breeding center for rice and coordinator of rice research and development activities in the country. The forum will take place at the PhilRice Social Hall, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija. The public forum on biotech rice is held to comply with the guidelines set by the National Committee on Biosafety of the Philippines (NCBP).

Angel workshop set

ANGELS have always been a source of spiritual help for those who believe in God's first created. Many stories have been told of how these spirit beings have intervened in small and big events in people's lives. One reason for these interventions is that angels wish to assist us in fulfilling our Christian vocation, which is to restore the world to Christ and to also seek their help in times of distress. To better know more about angels an Angel Workshop will be given by Bobby Monroy on Saturday, Sept. 29 from 8 a.m. to 12 noon at the Golden Angels Superlearning Center, 388 Smuth Street, corner Mariano Marcos Street, San Juan. Reservations can be made at 724-6042, 718-2987 or 0917-2403819.

Sara Lee sizzles at nine

THE HOUSE of Sara Lee (HOSL) Philippines will be holding its ninth annual convention at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel from Sept. 27 to 29. Dubbed, "The Heat is On," conference highlights are a dinner tribute to its leading Roster of Millionaires awardees on Sept. 27, a workshop/seminar for its independent business managers on the 28th, and to cap the three-day event, the Annual Convention (Ancon) proper and the Chairman's Circle Banquet on Sept. 29. Special awards will also be given in various categories such as Sara Lee's Best IGS/IBM, IBM Leadership Award, Roster of Millionaires, Hall of Distinction, Hall of Fame, League of Champions and Branch of the Year.

Fruit carving course

LEARN how to make the foods you serve more visually exciting with fruit and vegetable carvings. ProActive Center for Training (PACT) offers its How to Garnish with Fruit and Vegetable Carving Workshop on Sept. 28, 1 to 5 p.m. at Café Astoria, at the lobby of Astoria Plaza, J. Escriva Drive (formerly Amber Avenue), Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Reservations and inquiries are accepted on a first-come-first-served basis at 823-4947, 0919-5500601 or e-mail pactserv@info.com.ph. Visit PACT's website at www.info.com.ph/~pactserv.

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Interested applicants may apply in person at **NO KA OI PHILIPPINES INTERNATIONAL INC., Unit 406 Richville Corporate Center, 1314 Commerce Avenue, Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City.** Interview will be on October 1, 2001. Please bring your Resumé, Transcript of Records, 2x2 picture, NBI Clearance and Employment Certificate.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

The public is hereby notified that GE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, INC. has changed its name to:

ATR PROFESSIONAL LIFE ASSURANCE CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY is inviting all Security Agencies duly licensed by the CSG-SAGSD and with a paid-up capital of not less than P1,000,000.00 to bid for the security services requirements of select NHA projects. Pre-qualification documents can be obtained from the BGMSD-GSD OFFICE, G/F NHA Main Office Complex, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City, upon payment of the non-refundable amount of P500.00 starting on October 1, 2001. Deadline for the submission of Pre-C should be on October 8, 2001 not later than 5:00 PM.

All pre-qualified bidders will be notified of the schedule of issuance of bid forms, pre-bid conference and date of bidding.

The NHA reserves the right to waive any required formality or to reject any or all bids and accept the offer considered most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **JOSEPH PETER S. SISON**
Chairman
Pre-qualification, Evaluation and Award Committee

(PDI – Sept. 26 & 27, 2001)

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED RURAL BANK OF MALITA (Davao del Sur), INC. (RBMI)

1. Starting September 27, 2001, the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) thru its duly authorized representatives shall receive claims for insured deposits maintained with the closed **Rural Bank of Malita (Davao del Sur), Inc.**
2. Depositors are requested to proceed directly to designated payoff sites on dates indicated in the schedule (please refer to table below), Mondays thru Fridays, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM where PDIC representatives are stationed to accept claims and entertain queries of depositors.

RBMI Office/ Branch	Payoff Site	Servicing Dates
Malita, Head Office	RB of Malita, Inc.-Head Office Malita, Davao del Sur	Sept. 27 to Oct. 24, 2001
Padada	RB of Malita, Inc.-Padada Branch Padada, Davao del Sur	Sept. 27 to Oct. 24, 2001
Sulop	RB of Malita, Inc.-Sulop Branch Sulop, Davao del Sur	Sept. 27 to Oct. 18, 2001
Malalag	RB of Malita, Inc.- Malalag Branch Malalag, Davao del Sur	Sept. 27 to Oct. 18, 2001
Sta. Maria	RB of Malita, Inc.-Sta. Maria Branch Sta. Maria, Davao del Sur	Sept. 27 to Oct. 18, 2001

After the said dates, all depositors can file their claims personally or thru mail at the PDIC located at 2228 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City, Mondays thru Fridays, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

3. Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to our representatives when filing their claims:
   a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook, Certificate of Time Deposit or latest bank statement and unused check; and
   b. Latest identification document (ID) bearing the depositor's signature

   Other documents may be required by our representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.
4. Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 3591 as amended by R.A. 7400, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing of claims for insured deposits in the closed Rural Bank of Malita (Davao del Sur) is on **December 31, 2002.** After **December 31, 2002,** PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI – Sept. 26 & 27, 2001)

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids for the supply and delivery of 1,500 units of Manual Typewriters, brand new, PICA typestyle, 15" or 16" carriage, Philippine Keyboard, previously accredited brands (Olympia, Olivetti, Facit or Triumph-Adler), on "Ex-stock" basis, will be received by the Committee on Bids at exactly 2:00 p.m. on October 31, 2001. At said time and date, sealed bids submitted will be opened by the Committee on Bids in the presence of the participating bidders, at the 2nd floor of the Centennial Building.

Interested parties may submit their pre-qualification requirements to the Secretariat of the Committee or Bids, Office of Administrative Services, Annex Building, Old Compound, Supreme Court, Taft Ave., Manila not later than 2:00 p.m. on October 17, 2001.

Pre-bid conference of pre-qualified interested bidders will be held on October 24, 2001 the place afore-stated. Only bids of pre-qualified bidders who will attend the pre-bid conference will be accepted at the time of bidding.

Pre-qualification requirements, terms and conditions of this bidding may be obtained from the Secretariat: at afore-stated address after paying P100.00 to the Cashier of the Supreme Court.

The Committee on Bids reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality therein, or accept bid/s it may consider advantageous to the government.

September 25, 2001.

(Sgd.) **JOSE P. PEREZ**
Chairman
Committee on Bids

(PDI – Sept. 27, 2001)

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES LOS BAÑOS
College, Laguna

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) invites interested parties to pre-qualify and submit sealed bids for the public bidding of: (1) supply, and delivery of 207 computers, (2) supply and delivery of laboratory equipment, and (3) janitorial services and security services.

The schedule of the bidding activities is as follows:

For computers and laboratory equipment:

Particulars	Date/Time	Place
Pre-qualification	Sept. 28-Oct. 4/8:30a.m.-5:00 p.m.	SPMO
Issuance of Bid Documents	Oct. 8-11/8:30a.m.-5:00 p.m.	SPMO
Pre-bid conference	Oct. 12, Fri. 10:00 a.m.	SPMO
Opening/submission of bids	Oct. 19, Fri. 10:00 a.m.	SPMO

For Janitorial and Security services:

Particulars	Date/Time	Place
Pre-qualification	Sept. 28-Oct. 11/8:30-5:00 p.m.	SPMO
Issuance of Bid Documents	Oct. 15-18/8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	SPMO
Pre-bid conference	Oct. 22, Mon. 10:00 a.m.	SPMO
Opening/submission of bids	Oct. 26, Fri. 10:00 a.m.	SPMO

Interested parties may secure the checklist of pre-qualification requirements and submit pre-qualification documents to the Supply and Property Management Office (SPMO).

Only pre-qualified bidders shall be allowed to secure bid documents from SPMO and participation in the bidding process.

The UPLB reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the UPLB. The UPLB likewise assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee that the award shall be made.

(Sgd.) **HIDELIZA P. HERNANDEZ, OIC**
Chair, PBAC

(PDI – Sept. 26 & 27, 2001)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
Pambansang Korporasyon sa Elektrisidad
(NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION)

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID
AD NO. TRANSCO 2001-01

Bidding Date : October 16, 2001 - 10:00 AM
Pre-Bid Conference : October 09, 2001 - 2:00 PM
(Sampaguita Room)

TWENTY (20) UNITS - PROTECTION SIGNALING EQUIPMENT (PSE) COMPLETE WITH ALL NECESSARY INTERFACE CABLES

Interested parties are invited to prequalify and to submit sealed bids on the above using TWO (2) ENVELOPE SYSTEM to be opened publicly at the Sampaguita Rm., Ground Floor, Bldg. 2, NPC-OBC, Quezon Ave. cor. Agham Rd., Diliman, Quezon City.

Accreditation forms can be obtained from Mondays thru Fridays at the Accreditation and Bidding Support Services, Materials Management Department, Ground Floor, Bldg. 2, NPC-OBC, Diliman, Q.C., upon payment of **P50.00**, submission of company's TIN and proof of listing at the Metro Manila telephone directory. Deadline for submission of duly accomplished accreditation forms to participate in this bidding is on **October 3, 2001.**

Bidding documents are available on **September 24 to October 08, 2001 upon payment of P50.00 which is non-refundable, and presentation of the certificate of accreditation.**

Issuance of accreditation forms and bidding documents shall be **mornings only, 8:30 to 11:30 AM**. For inquiries, please call no. 921-25-74.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DIVISION
NPC-OBC (Head Office)
Diliman, Quezon City

(PDI–Sept. 24, 25 & 27, 2001)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
Pambansang Korporasyon sa Elektrisidad
(National Power Corporation)

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID
AD NO. PD 2001-50

Bidding Date: **October 5, 2001 - 10:00 AM**

A) SERVICE CONTRACTS FOR PARCELLARY SURVEY OF BATANGAS TRANSMISSION REINFORCEMENT PROJECT
   I. San Lorenzo S/Y - Batangas Sub-station
   II. Mac-Ban S/Y Twr. - 51 Calamba, Laguna

B) SERVICES: STANDARD PENETRATION TESTS AND ENGINEERING GEOLOGICAL/GEO-TECHNICAL EVALUATION CONTRACT FOR 248 TOWERS AND STEEL POLES (North Luzon 230 KV Transmission System covering San Manuel, Pangasinan-Concepcion, Tarlac-Mexico, Pampanga)

Only NPC accredited vendors are invited to submit sealed bids on the above to be opened publicly at the Sampaguita Rm. Ground Floor Bldg. 2 NPC-OBC, Quezon Avenue cor. Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Bidding documents available on **September 27, 2001** upon payment of P200.00 per schedule which is non-refundable, presentation of original Certificate of Accreditation and supplier's number (DCE). Last day of issuance of bidding documents **October 3, 2001.**

Issuance of bidding documents mornings only, 8:30 to 11:30 AM. For inquiries please call no. 921-25-74.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
NPC-OBC (Head Office)
Diliman, Quezon City

(PDI – Sept. 27, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

CENTRAL OFFICE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (COBAC)

September 19, 2001

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY/ELIGIBILITY SCREENING AND TO BID

The Department of Health thru the Central Office Bids and Awards Committee (COBAC) is inviting bids from accredited contractors of Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) with minimum license category of "AAA" and registration of "Large B" for Building and Industrial Plant for the project construction of NCPDHP and BPS Building Phase II located at RITM, Alabang, Muntinlupa, Metro Manila.

The dates to be followed are:

1. Submission of Letter of Intent, PCAB License and Registration (Bring original copies of Contractor's License and Issuance of Eligiblity Documents		**October 8, 2001**
2. Submission of duly accomplished Eligiblity Documents		**October 12, 2001**
3. Posting of eligible contractors		**October 17, 2001**
4. Issuance of Bid/Tender Documents		**October 18-19, 2001**
5. Pre-bid Conference	10:00 AM	**November 15, 2001**
6. Submission and Bids (Deadline)	10:00 AM	**December 18, 2001**
7. Opening of Bids	10:00 AM	**December 18, 2001**

All of the above activities shall be held at the Office of the COBAC Chairman, Ground Floor, Building No. 3, DOH Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila.

The complete set of bid documents may be purchased by the interested eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of TEN THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (P10,000.00).

COBAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal as evaluated by COBAC is the most advantageous to the Government. COBAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may be incurred. In the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

The Approved Budget Cost will be announced during the pre-bid conference.

(Sgd.) **ASEC. ZENAIDA O. LUDOVICE, M.D.**
Chairperson, COBAC

(PDI – Sept. 27, 30 & Oct. 5, 2001)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

ELMA U. MIRAFLORES
Puerto Princesa, Palawan

The public is hereby notified that MS. ELMA U. MIRAFLORES of Puerto Princesa business center, Palawan, whose picture appears hereto, has been TERMINATED FOR CAUSE effective August 15, 2001.

Any transaction made with Ms. Miraflores after said date shall not be honored by the company.

PETPlans Centre, 114 Aguirre St.
Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel.: 892-5546 Fax no. 893-5339
www.petplans.com

National Power Corporation

INVITATION TO BID

September 3, 2001

The National Power Corporation (NPC) has obtained a loan from Kreditanstalt Fur Wiederaufbau (KfW) to finance the foreign exchange cost of various spare parts and equipment for various NPC Plants/Substations (KfW Batch 4 Rebidding) and intends to apply the proceeds of this loan to eligible payments under the contract, for which this "Invitation For Bids" is being issued. With this, NPC invites sealed bids from eligible firms that are domiciled in the Federal Republic of Germany (that conduct there a significant portion of their business, and whose goods and services for the programme originate chiefly in the Federal Republic of Germany) for items listed below.

Schedule	Qty	Description
4A-1	1-lot	Measuring Equipment, consisting of Flue gas analyzing module, O_2-analyzer, CO_2/CO-analyzer, NO-analyzer, portable SO_2-gas analyzing module, Fly ash measuring module and evaluation unit.
4A-4	2-sets	Air Compressor, 30 Bars, 460 volts, 60 Hz

A complete set of Tender documents shall be available for issuance at the Office of the Bids & Contracts Management Department, 2nd Floor, Building II, National Power Corporation, cor. Quezon Avenue & Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City (Zip Code: 1104) Philippines starting **September 17, 2001** upon submission of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of a registration fee of ONE THOUSAND PESOS (P1,000.00).

A Pre-Bid Conference will be conducted on **September 28, 2001** at 2:00 PM at the Solarium Conference Room, NPC-OBC, Diliman, Quezon City.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Office of the Bids & Contracts Management Dept. (BCMD) Telefax No. 921-23-08.

Deadline for submission of accomplished bids shall be not later than 9:00 AM of **October 17, 2001.**

NPC reserves the right to reject any application or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **A. T. CORPUZ**
Chairman
Contracts Award Committee

(PDI–Sept. 15, 17 & 27, 2001)

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY
PNOC Building VI, Energy Center
Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Metro Manila
Tel. Nos.: 555-0254, 840-1440

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID (RE-BID)

The PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY (PNOC) invites accredited Suppliers/Contractors to submit sealed bids for the following requirements:

PROJECT	Pre-Qualification Deadline	Bid Deadline
1. Mobile Sound System (Powered Speaker, Audio Mixer, Active Subwoofer, Double Cassette Deck, Omni and Uni-directional Mic, Wireless Lapel Mic GS 2001-25	October 12, 2001	October 30, 2001 (2:00 PM)
2. Messengerial Services WO-01-034	October 12, 2001	October 23, 2001 (2:00 PM)
3. Custodial Services (Janitors/Plumber/Carpenter) WO-01-038	October 12, 2001	October 25, 2001 (2:00 PM)

Interested ACCREDITED parties may obtain bid forms upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00 per bid package from the PNOC-Property and Supply Management Division (PSMD) at the G/F of the PNOC Building.

Interested parties who are not yet accredited must first pass the pre-qualification process. Pre-qualification documents-checklist is available at the said address upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00 which must be accomplished and submitted to PSMD on or before the set deadline. Failure to pre-qualify would render the concerned parties automatically disqualified from this bidding.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security equivalent to 10% of the total bid price but not to exceed ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P100,000.00), secured from any one of PNOC's accredited bonding companies.

The PNOC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive formality therein or to accept such bids or to award any work that are considered most advantageous to the company.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. PEDRO A. AQUINO, JR.**
Senior Vice President
Legal, Admin and Estate
Management Services

(PDI – Sept. 27 & 28, 2001)

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

21 September 2001

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Housing Authority is inviting interested contractors who have completed similar works (at least 50% of Estimated Contract Cost) within the last three (3) years and accredited with PCAB/IAC, to bid for the contract listed as follows:

Bid Package	Scope of Works	Project Cost (Million)	PCAB Category	IAC Classification
Palo Housing Project (Remaining Works), Bgy. Baras, Palo, Leyte	Road, water, drainage and survey works	P2.20	At least "C"	Small B for Roads

A. Eligibility Statement forms, bid documents/plans as well as other information are available at the Office of the BAC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, NHA Main Building, Diliman, Quezon City upon submission of the following: a) Letter of Intent; b) PCAB/IAC License; c) Certificate of Completion/Acceptance and Contract Agreement of completed similar project; and d) Presentation of original documents for authentication purposes.

B. Payment of non-refundable fee of P500.00 per set shall be received only from authorized representatives.

C. Bid deposits shall be in the form of cash, Manager's or Cashier's Check.

D. Deadline of submission of LOI/issuance of bid documents is on **October 5, 2001.** Pre-Bid Conference will be held on **October 9, 2001**, 10:00 AM at the Operations Center, 3rd Floor, NHA Main Building.

E. NHA resérves the right to reject any or all bids, waive formally of any defect thereon, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **JOSEPH PETER S. SISON**
Assistant General Manager
Chairman, Bid and Award Committee

(PDI – Sept. 27 & Oct. 4, 2001)

OBITUARIES

Our Dearly Beloved

LOURDES ELEGIO ORTIZ

of Leon, Iloilo; Banga, So. Cotabato; and Quezon City
Widow of the late **Judge Rodolfo A. Ortiz**

Peacefully joined our Lord on September 26, 2001 at the age of 73.

Her bereaved children **Bo** and **Rebecca, Nanette, Bubut** and **Leslie, Rey** and **Marlan, Randy Babylove, Ninoy** and **Mayette**; grandchildren **Paolo, Raedel, Mikki** and **Mikka, Juan Rodolfo, Mariel**; relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Nacional Memorial Homes, Tel. No. 713-5231, Chapel 2-B, 264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City until Sunday, September 30, 2001, and will be transferred to the Holy Family Parish Church, Kamias, Quezon City on Monday, October 1, 2001.

Interment will be on Tuesday, October 2, 2001 at the Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park, Tandang Sora, Quezon City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

In Loving Memory
on the
Seventh Death Anniversary of

FRANCISCO S. GADDI, SR.

who passed away on September 27, 1994.

Holy Masses will be offered today at the following churches:

6:00 AM	Sta. Ana, Pampanga Parish Church
6:00 AM	Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Dolores, City of San Fernando
6:00 AM	Carmelite Monastery, Angeles City
12:00 NN	University of the Assumption

The Family requests the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord." Matthew 10:39

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912-9008 to 11 (Aurora)
MAKATI
892-5578, 811-4361, 811-4370
KALAW
528-0213, 527-3342
MEGAMALL
635-0219, 635-0220

CARIDAD VISTAN RAYMUNDO

Widow of the late FELIXBERTO J. RAYMUNDO

Peacefully joined our Lord on September 23, 2001
at the age of 78.

Her bereaved children **CHIT**, **EDDIE** and **PRECY**, **CARMEN** and **MIKE CARL**, **LINDA** and **DAVE JOHNSTON**, **JOSIE** and **MANNY ESTACION**, **RIQUI**, **EVELYN** and **JOE PICCIO**, **RAMON** and **JUDY**, **RENE** and **CARINA ROLAND** and **SHIRLEY**, **JEANNIE**, **LOU**, **TEL** and **GENE SERRANO**, **CAI** and **NORIE LUCIANO**, and **LIZ**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, brothers and sisters request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS, Dr. A. Santos Avenue, Parañaque City.

Interment will be at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City on Saturday, September 29, 2001 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Holy Trinity.

Our Dearly Beloved

RUBIN E. DE ROMA

August 5, 1920 – September 24, 2001

Former Vice-Governor, Province of Laguna
Former Judge, Court of Agrarian Relations
Grand Knight San Pablo City Council, No.: 3468
District Deputy 4th Degree, Knights of Columbus
Lawyer, Professor

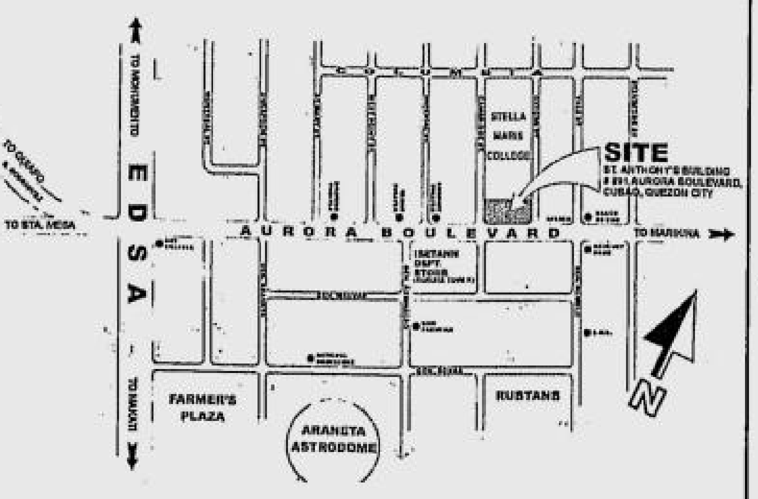
Peacefully joined his Creator
after a full life of 81 years.

His bereaved wife **Dionisia Carada de Roma**; children **Leni** and **Nap Santos**, **Christie** and **Wilson Guia**, **Ardie** and **Malou de Roma**; grandchildren **Don**, **Tin-tin**, **Roy**, **Camille**, **Clarice**, **Dale**, **Darryl** and **Barbie**; brothers, sisters and relatives request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at #17 Balagtas Blvd., San Pablo City.

Interment will be on Saturday, September 29, 2001 at San Gabriel Memorial Park after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at the San Pablo City Cathedral.

INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS



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"My soul finds rest in God alone
from HIM comes my salvation."
Psalm 62:2

GENEROSO CARO GALVAN

of Santa Rosa, Laguna
August 30, 1949 - September 22, 2001
Our Beloved GENER
A good kind and loving brother
A dedicated public servant

Though we may have to face and endure an empty space in our hearts,
We rejoice in thanksgiving to the Almighty
for giving us **GENE** who is and will forever be part of our lives.

His loving sisters
Luzviminda, Marina and **Erlinda**
Sister-in-law **Elisa**

Nephews and Nieces
Eric & Minda, Mary Ann & Ferdie, Chari & Georg, Greg & Dawn,
Dina & David, Cecil & Cevdet, Rose & Miguel
Hely & Willy, Vic & Benny, Jun
Ludy & Joel, Edel & Chato, Kaye
and Grand Nephews & Grand Nieces
request the kind readers to please pray for his eternal rest with God.

His remains lie in state at the family residence at
665 Rizal Blvd., Brgy. Labas, Santa Rosa, Laguna.

Interment will be on Saturday, September 29, 2001
after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at the Roman Catholic Church.

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

Atty. FRANCISCO "PAQUING" E. POBRE

Ret. Provincial Fiscal of Ilocos Norte

Peacefully joined his Creator on September 10, 2001
at the age of 84.

His loving wife **Raymunda**; children **Roy** and **Nini**, **Maritta**, **Edith** and **Tom**, and **Althea** and **Norby**, together with his grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Pobre's residence, Paoay, Ilocos Norte.

Interment will be on September 30, 2001 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at the Philippine Independent Church, Paoay, Ilocos Norte.

Lt. ENRIQUE G. FRUTO, PC (Ret)

of Bauan, Batangas and Bulan, Sorsogon

has peacefully joined his Creator and his wife Raymunda
on September 24, 2001 at the age of 72.

We, the children **Fr. Nepo**, **Col. Odie & Neng**, **Moises** (†), **Lisa**, **Noel & Wena**, **Ric**, **Mila**, **Neil & Lanie**, **Ana** together with his grandchildren **Paul Henry**, **Jan Virgil**, **Blanca Kris**, **Erwin Noel**, **Erik Noel**, **Rowena Maria**, **John Henry** and **Alex Vincent** request the readers to include him in their prayers.

Interment is today, Thursday, at the Immaculate Conception Memorial Park, Bauan, Batangas, 2:30 p.m. after a concelebrated Mass.

OSCAR O. LIWANAG, SR.

of Tarlac, Tarlac and Sikatuna Village, Q.C.
Died in the Grace of our Lord on September 25, 2001
at the age of 72.

His bereaved wife **Pacita P. Aviles**; children **Ruben**, **Priscila** and **Ramon M. Piñero**, **Oscar, Jr.** and **Victoria Paguio**, **Reynaldo**, and **Veronica Callos** and **Roberto**; nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence at #46 Matipid St., Sikatuna Village, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, September 29, 2001 at Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Q.C. after the 9:00 a.m Mass at The Parish of the Lord of Divine Mercy, Madasalin corner Maamo Sts., Sikatuna Village, Q.C.

Please omit flowers.

DAISY BERMEJO JAO

Passed into eternal light
on September 26, 2001
at the age of 57.

Her husband **Rodolfo V. Jao**; mother **Kathleen Booth Bermejo**; daughter **Grace B. Jao**; son **Aaron Vincent B. Jao**; brother **Dan** and **Dave Bermejo**; in-law **Achie Bermejo**; nephews & nieces **Gen**, **Giselle**, **Grego** & **Garla Bermejo** remember her with love and request prayers for her repose.

Her remains lie in state at the Mt. Carmel Chapel, Doña Juana Rodriguez Ave. cor. 4th St., Broadway, New Manila, Quezon City.

Interment is on **September 29, 2001** after the **8:00 a.m. Mass**.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Office of the Secretary
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City

FISHERIES ADMINISTRATIVE)
ORDER NO. 214 :
Series of 2001)

SUBJECT: Code of Practice for Aquaculture

Pursuant to Section 47 of R.A. No. 8550, this code of practice for aquaculture outlining the general principles and guidelines for environmentally-sound design and operation for the sustainable development of the industry is hereby promulgated for the information and guidance of all concerned.

SECTION 1. Definition. - The terms as used in this order shall be construed as follows:

a. Aquaculture. - Fishery operation involving the breeding and farming of fish and other fishery species in fresh, marine and brackishwater areas.
b. Aquaculture project. - shall refer to fish cages, fishpens, fishponds, fish hatcheries, seaweeds farms, mollusk (pearls, mussels, oysters) farms and other related projects.
c. Biofilter. - Organisms which ingest impurities from the water making the ponds meet the required optimum physical and microbiological parameters for the cultured species such as mussels, seaweeds and oysters.
d. Brackishwater aquaculture. - refers to a fishery operation involving the culture of fish in a mixture of seawater and freshwater with salinity less than 30 parts per thousand.
e. Carrying capacity. - The size of population of a given species that can be supported in a given area or volume of a body of water which will not lead to the deterioration thereof.
f. Closed recirculating system. - A system where the pondwater, instead of being discharged to the outside environment, is reused after undergoing filtration in a settling pond or water treatment process.
g. Code of practice. - A code prescribing principles and standards for responsible practices with the end in view of ensuring the effective conservation, management and development of aquaculture.
h. Drugs. - Chemical substances used to alter the state or condition of the fish and/or the culture medium.
i. Effluent. - A general term denoting any wastewater, partially or completely treated, or in its natural state flowing out of a manufacturing plant, industrial plant or treatment plant and from ponds and hatcheries.
j. Endemic species. - Species restricted or native to a particular region.
k. Exotic species. - Species that are introduced or non-native; foreign.
l. Environmental Impact Assessment (or EIA). - The process of predicting the likely environmental consequences of implementing projects or undertakings and designing appropriate preventive, mitigating and enhancement measures.
m. Fish cage. - refers to an enclosure which is either stationary or floating, made up of nets, or screen sewn or fastened together and installed in the water with opening at the surface or covered and held in a place by a wooden/bamboo posts or various types of anchors and floats.
n. Fishpen. - An artificial enclosure constructed within a body of water for culturing fish, and fishery/aquatic resources made up of poles closely arranged in an enclosure with wooden materials, screen or nylon netting to prevent escape of fish.
o. Fishpond. - A land-based facility enclosed with earthen or stone materials to impound water for growing fish.
p. Fishpond Lease Agreement (or FLA). - A contract entered into by and between the Secretary of Agriculture and a qualified fishpond applicant for the use of public land for fishpond development purpose for a period of twenty-five (25) years.
q. Freshwater aquaculture. - Fishery operation involving the raising and culturing of fish in a water body originating from lakes, reservoirs, streams and rivers having a salinity from 0 to 0.5 parts per thousand.
r. Genetically Modified Organism (GMO). - refers to organism whose genes are manipulated to produce certain desired characteristics and be propagated for experimental purposes.
s. Hatchery. - refers to a lake-based or land-based structure growing or culturing fish for breeding and fish seed production.
t. Lake. - An inland body of water, an extended part of a river, a reservoir formed by a dam, or a lake basin intermittently or formerly covered with water.
u. Mariculture. - refers to seafarming of aquatic plants and fishes.
v. Outfall. - refers to the outlet of a river, stream or lake.
w. Quarantine. - Enforced isolation of organisms which are or which may be infectious to prevent the transmission of disease to other organisms or the environment.
x. Reservoir. - An artificial impoundment where water is kept for future use. The use of pond reservoir is to allow the settling of organic matter from the water source before use in the ponds.
y. Settling pond. - refers to a pond specially designed for the settling of heavily loaded particles and other organic matter in the water before disposal to the surrounding environment.
z. Zonation plan. - A plan defining the boundaries of specific areas for fishery utilization and development purposes.

A. General Principles and Guidelines

Sec. 2. Site selection/evaluation. - Potential sites for aquaculture shall be thoroughly evaluated by BFAR in consultation with DENR, LGUs, and NFARMC to ensure that ecological and social conditions are sustained and protected. The following practices shall ensure that the sites selected are appropriate for aquaculture farms:

a. Water source in the area shall be evaluated as to its quality and quantity;
b. Tidal patterns, freshwater influences and flood levels, offshore currents and existing water uses shall be determined;
c. Sustainability of topography, soil and ecosystem for siting and construction of ponds shall be ascertained;
d. Long-term climatological records for the last five (5) years shall be acquired to determine the occurrence of floods, droughts, storms and other calamities in the area;
e. Existing flora and fauna shall be determined relative to ecologically-sensitive areas such as migration routes, nesting grounds, etc.;
f. Alternatives to mitigate potential negative environmental and social impacts shall be considered;
g. Regulatory requirements for the site shall be documented and possible alternatives shall be considered for compliance with regulations; and
h. Availability of work force in the area shall be surveyed.

SEC. 3. Farm design and construction. - Proven and accepted designs and construction procedures shall be adopted to overcome problems related to flood levels, storms, erosion, seepage, water intake and discharge points and encroachment on mangroves and wetlands as well as social impacts. The following practices shall assure this goal:

a. An EIS shall be required to be submitted to the DENR for review and evaluation before initiating any development activity or construction;
b. Embankments shall be so designed as to prevent erosion and reduce seepage;
c. Farm shall be properly designed in such a way that the arrangement of the pond compartments, water control structures and all other facilities shall mutually harmonize with each other giving the most efficient water management and manipulation of stocks;
d. An ideal farm shall have wastewater treatment and settling pond areas which are necessary for conditioning intake water as well as settling wastewater before discharging to the environment;
e. Structural design shall consider storms and flood levels;
f. Required buffer zones shall be maintained as well as vegetative cover for exposed earthwork:
    1) For brackishwater, a buffer zone of at least 100 meters from the sea to the main peripheral dike and 50 meters along the river banks (for typhoon prone areas) and 50 meters from the sea and 20 meters along the river banks (for non-typhoon prone areas), shall be left undisturbed for ecological reasons and physical protection from flooding and wave action.
    2) For freshwater, a distance of 20 meters (for non-typhoon prone areas) away from the embankment and 50 meters (for typhoon prone areas) shall be maintained to serve as buffer zone to minimize flood risk and related environmental hazards.
g. Permit for the construction of deep wells for freshwater supply shall be obtained from the National Water Resources Board;
h. Fish cages, floating or stationary, shall be installed and kept at least one (1) meter between units and at 20 meters apart between clusters to provide water exchange;
i. Fishpens shall be spaced 200 meters apart; and
j. Marine cage farming shall be operated in definite zones established by the LGU concerned in consultation with the M/CFARMC.

Sec. 4. Water usage. - A good environment within the pond system shall be influenced by the following practices on water usage as well as the pondwater quality management:

a. The construction and operation of deep wells for freshwater supply shall be based on a design which prevents salt intrusion into freshwater aquifers and subsidence of ground level;
b. Closed recirculating water system shall be considered in the intensive and semi-intensive farming systems;
c. Water exchange shall be minimizing by maintaining good water quality through moderate stocking densities and feeding rates, using high quality feeds and good feeding practices.

Sec. 5. Water discharge and sludge/effluent management. - There shall be emphasized increased awareness of proper waste management in the aquaculture industry that shall enhance the protection of coastal land and water resources through the following practices:

a. Effluents, sediments and other wastes shall be properly disposed of through the use of wastewater treatment and settling ponds;
b. Outfall shall be so designed that no significant impact of effluents on natural waters occurs beyond the mixing zone;
c. Sediment from ponds, canals or settling basins shall be put back into the area from which it was eroded, used as earthfill or disposed on some other environmentally-responsible way; and
d. Discharged water shall meet water quality standards (determined qualitatively and quantitatively). Qualitative standards shall include prohibition of the release of turbid and odorous water to the receiving water while quantitative standards shall include the maximum and/or minimum levels of suspended solid, measure of acidity (pH), dissolved oxygen, ammonia and other nitrogenous compounds, phosphorus, carbon dioxide and the Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD).

Sec. 6. Use of drugs, chemicals, potentially toxic pesticides and fertilizers. - The following shall be practiced to foster awareness on the proper use of therapeutic agents and other chemicals without endangering food safety or threaten the environment:

a. Drugs, chemicals, pesticides and fertilizers including lime shall be used only when clearly justified to treat specific problems;
b. If chemicals are used, pondwater shall not be discharged until they have degraded/dissipated or until the compound have naturally decomposed to non-toxic form;
c. Records shall be maintained regarding the use of chemicals in ponds as suggested by the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (or HACCP) method;
d. Banned chemicals shall not be used for any purpose;
e. Drugs, antibiotics and other chemical treatments shall be in accordance with recommended practices and comply with the national and international regulations;
f. Aquaculture producers shall follow the information on product labels regarding dosage, withdrawal period, proper use, storage, disposal and other uses of the chemicals to safeguard environmental and human safety;
g. Therapeutants shall be stored in a cool place and in a secure manner and unused compounds shall be disposed of by methods preventing environmental contamination;
h. Biodegradable indigenous material such as derris roots, teaseed and tobacco dust shall be used to eliminate unwanted species in ponds instead of non-biodegradable compounds; and
i. Regulations on labeling the contents and percentage of active ingredients in all chemicals including fertilizers and liming material shall be developed.

Sec. 7. Stock selection, stocking practices. - The following practices shall assure increased production of good quality and disease-free stocks promoting profitable fish farming:

a. Moderate and appropriate stocking density by species shall be employed;
b. Indigenous species shall be cultured whenever feasible;
c. Stock only healthy fry and fingerlings. Genetically improved fish species for stocking shall be sourced from government and accredited non-government hatcheries; and
d. Hatchery fry and fingerlings shall be encouraged for use rather than those caught from the wild.

SEC. 8. Introduction of exotic and GMOs. - The introduction of exotic and GMOs shall be made after a sound ecological, biological and environmental justification based on scientific studies and subject to the bio-safety standard as provided for by existing laws and regulations.

SEC. 9. Feed, feed use and management. - The following practices shall be adopted to improve the efficiency of supplemental feeds and feed management in aquaculture and reduce the amount of waste entering the ponds:

a. Feeds shall be selected as to their high utilization rates to reduce nutrient pollution from uneaten feeds and excretory products;
b. Feed characteristics shall include balanced levels of amino acids and other nutrients appropriate for the age of the fish, high palatability to stimulate rapid consumption, and high stability to prevent rapid nutrient release;
c. Ideally, extruded feeds shall be used;
d. Feeds shall be stored in cool, dry areas to prevent mold and other contaminants from forming;
e. Medicated feeds shall be used only if and when necessary for the control of specific disease;
f. Feeding management in lake-based aquaculture shall be in conformity with the carrying capacity of the lake as specified in Chapter O of this order;
g. Good feeding practices shall include frequent feeding in small quantities of feed several times through the day, using feeding trays and even distribution of feeds in the pond;
h. DA Administrative Order No. 16 on the "Nutrient Standard for Aquaculture Feeds" and other regulations of the Bureau of Animal Industry shall be complied with; and
i. Records of daily feed application rates shall be kept to assess feed conversion ratio (or FCR).

Sec. 10. Fish health management. - The following practices shall be complied with to provide effective management of fish health focusing on disease prevention rather than disease treatment, eventually reducing the incidence of diseases and protecting the natural fisheries:

a. Sustainable farming practices shall be promoted;
b. Appropriate quarantine procedures, handling, transport and proper acclimatization of healthy fry and fingerlings prior to stocking shall be strictly observed;
c. Good water quality shall be maintained by using appropriate stocking and feeding practices;
d. For non-infectious diseases related to pond condition, specific corrective management measures shall be carried out;
e. For mild infectious diseases with potential to spread within a farm, the pond shall be quarantined and remedial measures shall be applied;
f. For serious infectious diseases that may spread widely, the pond shall be isolated and the remaining fish shall be harvested by net and the pond shall be disinfected without discharging the water;
g. Treatment shall be done only when necessary;
h. Dead, diseased fish shall be disposed of in a sanitary manner to prevent the spread of the disease;
i. When disease occurs, transfer of fish, equipment and pondwater shall be avoided;
j. Fishfarmers shall participate in the BFAR's national program on disease information, surveillance and reporting system; and
k. On-site disease monitoring shall be conducted only by a competent Aquatic Animal Health Officer

Sec. 11. Aquaculture Data Management. - Data management shall be properly coordinated with all agencies concerned to come up with a networking system to access aquaculture information. This shall be attained through the following:

a. Database shall be created out of environmental, social and land use impacts including collection and publication of statistics on aquaculture;
b. Newsletters and other informative papers on aquaculture shall be published;
c. Linkages with local and international government and non-government organizations for information networking shall be pursued;
d. Information from relevant agencies and organizations relating to aquaculture shall be requested regularly; and
e. All aquaculture operators shall submit annual reports of their production as requirement for renewal of the corresponding permits to the municipal or city government concerned, copy furnished the BFAR regional offices.

B. Incentives

The formulation of incentives shall encourage compliance with the environment standards and shall promote sustainable management practices on aquaculture.

Sec. 12. Incentives. - The following incentives may be granted for consistent compliance with the rules and regulations of this Code:

a. Eco-labeling.
b. Technical and market assistance.
c. Gawad Saka nominee
d. Training on aquaculture technologies

C. Carrying Capacity (Lake-based Aquaculture)

The measurement of carrying capacity in lakes and rivers is essential in rationalizing management and utilization of fishery resources in these areas.

Sec. 13. The criteria for the determination of the carrying capacity of lakes to control stocking density and feeding requirements are the following:

a. The carrying capacity of a lake shall be determined through the conduct of physico-chemical and biological study to determine plankton/algae density, nutrients and transparency and fish biomass and composition;
b. The carrying capacity of fishpens, cages in the lake shall be based on the physico-chemical and biological productivity measured in terms of biomass (g/m^3) and nutrient uptake (gm/C/m^3); and
c. The level of primary productivity in inland water that could support the good growth of planktivorous species like tilapia, carp, milkfish shall be less than 10 g/cu.^{3}.

Sec. 14. This Order shall be subject to the existing laws, rules and regulations and local ordinance on these matters.

Sec. 15. Effectivity. - This order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette and/or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation and fifteen (15) days after its registration with the Office of the National Administrative Register.

ISSUED this **17th** day of **September** 2001 at Quezon City, Metropolitan Manila, Philippines.

Leonardo Q. Montemayor
LEONARDO Q. MONTEMAYOR
Secretary

Recommended by:

MALCOLM I. SARMIENTO, JR.
Director
Bureau of Fisheries
and Aquatic Resources

CESAR M. DRILON, JR.
Undersecretary for Fisheries
and concurrently
Chairman, NFARMC

FISHERIES ADMINISTRATIVE)
ORDER NO. 215 :
Series of 2001 . . . .)

SUBJECT: Insurance for aquaculture crops/stocks.

Pursuant to Section 54 of R.A. No. 8550, and Rules 54.1 and 54.2 of the Department of Agriculture (DA) Administrative Order No. 3, Series of 1998, the following guidelines on the insurance of crops/stocks in fishponds, fish cages, fish pens and other aquaculture projects is hereby promulgated for the information and guidance of all concerned.

SECTION 1. Scope and Coverage. - This guideline shall govern the implementation of an insurance program for unharvested crops/stocks in fishponds, fish cages and fish pens including seaweed farms and other aquaculture projects.

SECTION 2. Definition. - Unless otherwise specified, the following terms shall be construed as follows:

a. *Aquaculture Farm.* - refers to areas where fishponds, fish cages, fish pens, hatcheries and other aquaculture projects are located.
b. *Assured.* - A fish farmer whose stock is covered by crop insurance.
c. *BFAR.* - refers to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.
d. *Crops/stocks.* - refers to the fish/fishery aquatic products in fishponds, fishpens, fishcages and other aquaculture projects.
e. *DA.* - refers to the Department of Agriculture.
f. *DENR.* - refers to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.
g. *Fish cage.* - An enclosure which is either stationary or floating; made up of nets, or screen sewn or fastened together and installed in the water with an opening at the surface or covered and held in place by a wooden/bamboo posts or various types of anchors and floats.
h. *Fishpen.* - An artificial enclosure constructed within a body of water for culturing fish and fishery/aquatic resources, made up of poles closely arranged in an enclosure with wooden materials, screen or nylon netting to prevent escape of fish.
i. *Fishpond.* - A land-based facility enclosed with earthen or stone materials to impound water for growing fish.
j. *Force majeure.* - An event or effect that cannot be reasonably anticipated or controlled such as typhoon, earthquake, volcanic eruption and other natural disasters.
k. *Fortuitous events.* - Events or circumstances that happen without intention or premeditation such as accidental fire and similar events.
l. *Insurance contract.* - An agreement whereby one undertakes in consideration of a premium, to indemnify another against loss, damage or liability arising from risks covered.
m. *Insurance.* - Protection against loss of stock and/or other eligible properties of assured fish farmers on account of fortuitous events and force majeure.
n. *Natural disasters.* - Any of the following natural calamities: typhoon, flood, drought, earthquake and volcanic eruption.
o. *PCIC.* - The Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation, a government corporation created and operating under Presidential Decree No. 1467, as amended by Republic Act No. 8175.
p. *Properties.* - Fishponds, fish cages, fish pens, hatcheries, seaweed farms and other aquaculture projects and post-harvest facilities, including but not limited to ice plants and cold storage.

SECTION 3. Risks Covered. - There shall be a Limited Cover against crop/stock loss due to natural disasters and an Extended Cover against loss of crop/stock and other eligible properties due to fortuitous events and *force majeure*/natural calamities.

SECTION 4. Exclusions. - The following losses not covered are those arising from:

a. Insects, mites, pests and diseases;
b. Intentional destruction/killing whether by order of an official body or otherwise;
c. Any measure resorted to by the government in the larger interest of the public. Avoidable risks emanating from or due to neglect of the Assured/non-compliance with accepted farm management practices by the Assured or person authorized by him to work and care for the stock;
d. Malicious or willful act of the Assured or any employee of the Assured;
e. Theft and robbery, pillage, sequestration, strike or other commotion, war, invasion, acts of foreign enemies, hostilities (with or without declaration of war), civil war, rebellion, revolution, insurrection and military or usurped power;
f. Ionizing radiations or contamination by radioactivity from any nuclear fuel or from any nuclear waste from the combustion of nuclear fuel;
g. Radioactive, toxic, explosive or other hazardous properties of any explosive nuclear assembly or nuclear component thereof;
h. Oil spill; and
i. Any cause or risk not specified in Section 3.

Those occurring:

a. Prior to the effectivity of insurance;
b. Beyond the scheduled dates of harvest; and
c. After harvest of the crop/stock.

SECTION 5. Object of Insurance. - The object of insurance shall be the unharvested crop/stock cultured in the fish farm/aquaculture farm.

SECTION 6. Amount of Cover. - For the stocks, the insurance shall cover the cost of production inputs per Farm Plan and Budget plus an additional amount of cover (at the option of the farmer) of up to a maximum of twenty per cent (20%) thereof (2 months after stocking) to cover portion of the value of the expected yield subject to the cover ceiling approved by the PCIC Board.

SECTION 7. Term of Insurance Coverage. - For the stock, the insurance coverage shall be from stocking up to harvest.

SECTION 8. Premium Rate. - The premium shall be market-rated and shall be borne by the insured. The premium rate shall be determined by the PCIC.

SECTION 9. Eligibility for Insurance. - Duly licensed owners/operators of fishponds, fish cages, fish pens and aquaculture farms which culture/produce selected fish species such as milkfish, shrimps, groupers snappers, tilapia, muderab, and seaweeds, may qualify for coverage under this program.

SECTION 10. Policy Conditions.

a. The Assured shall be either the owner/co-owner/operator of the insured fishfarm/aquaculture farm, property, facility or a duly recognized fish farmers organization directly or indirectly in custody of and actively involved in the management of such fish farm/aquaculture farms, property, facility, but should such fishfarm/property/facility cease to be in the custody of the Assured or part with any interest in it whatsoever, whether temporarily or permanently, the insurance for the fishfarm/aquaculture farm, property or facility shall terminate automatically.
b. The Assured shall at all times exercise all reasonable care and precaution for protection of his stock/property/facility; follow proven package of technology, comply with the Code of Practice for Aquaculture promulgated by DA/BFAR and provide the same care and attention as if no insurance had been in effect.
c. The Assured shall permit the authorized representatives of PCIC at all times to inspect the insured fish farm property and facility; furnish any information which may be required and comply with all requirements applicable to the concerned industry under the rules and regulations stipulated by the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, municipal, provincial or other concerned authorities.
d. In the event of any peril affecting the stocks, the Assured shall take all reasonable steps to minimize the loss and to safeguard the fishfarm/aquaculture farm/property/facility from further loss or damage and to maintain it in efficient condition. Also, the Assured shall forthwith send a notice of loss to PCIC within two (2) days from the occurrence of loss.
e. The insurance policy shall be void and all premiums paid shall be forfeited to PCIC in the event of misrepresentation, improper description or non-disclosure of any material facts.
f. If any claim shall be in any respect fraudulent or if any deceitful means or devices are used by the Assured or by anyone acting on his behalf to obtain benefit from the policy, all benefits under the policy shall be forfeited.

SECTION 11. Assignment of insurance. - Insurance may be assigned as follows:

a. For borrowing fish farmers/growers, the insurance policies may be assigned to the lending institution/lending conduit (LI/LC) where the loans are obtained to the extent of the ratable proportion of the loan to the total amount of cover.
b. In the case of member borrowers of Fish Farmers Organization (FFO)/NGOs proceeds of indemnity may be assigned to the LI/LC where said FFOs/NGOs obtained their production loans, which were relent to their members, also, the extent of the ratable proportion of the loan to the total amount of cover.
c. In all cases, i.e., for borrowing and self-financed fish farmers/growers, the assignment of the policy shall require the prior consent of PCIC, provided, that in no case shall the assignee be an employee of PCIC and/or an employee of BFAR or the spouse or relative within the second degree of the said employee.

SECTION 12. *Supplementary Provisions.* - Supplemental guidelines, manuals or amendments to effect smooth implementation of this insurance program shall be issued by PCIC on as needed basis and whenever necessary. To operationalize this, a Fisheries Insurance Management Committee (FIMC) shall be created to be composed of BFAR and PCIC, which shall be authorized among others to call on other concerned sectors, agencies and institutions on matters pertaining to the program. To this effect, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) shall be executed between BFAR and PCIC defining the roles and responsibilities of both parties including the functions and authorities of the FIMC in the utilization of funds under Section 14.

SECTION 13. *Transitory Provisions.* - Pending the completion of the Fisheries Insurance Guidelines, all provisions of this Order shall be subject to amendment or revisions based on the supplemental guidelines as agreed by the FIMC. All revisions shall be circulated to all concerned.

SECTION 14. *Operating Funds.* - For this Order to be fully implemented, the DA shall allocate and release to BFAR an initial operating fund of P50 Million within sixty (60) days upon signing of the MOA to be executed by BFAR and PCIC. Subsequently, BFAR shall include in its annual budget at least P30 Million to sustain the program that may be increased as needed by the program. This Fund shall be administered by PCIC to cover the operation of the Program including the expenses of FIMC subject to accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

SECTION 15. *Pilot Projects.* - The Program shall be implemented nationwide to initially pilot test three (3) areas: Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. For this purpose, the type and site of the project shall be determined by FIMC.

SECTION 16. *Effectivity.* - This order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette and/or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation and fifteen (15) days after its registration with the Office of the National Administrative Register.

ISSUED this **17th** day of **September** 2001 at Quezon City, Metropolitan Manila, Philippines.

LEONARDO Q. MONTEMAYOR
Secretary

Recommended by:

MALCOLM I. SARMIENTO, JR.
Director
Bureau of Fisheries
and Aquatic Resources

CESAR M. DRILON, JR.
Undersecretary for Fisheries
and concurrently
Chairman, NFARMC

FISHERIES ADMINISTRATIVE)
ORDER NO. 216 :
Series of 2001 ....)

SUBJECT: Obstruction to navigation in streams, rivers, lakes and bays

Pursuant to Sections 55 and 103 (d) of RA 8550, this order governing the obstruction to navigation in streams, rivers, lakes and bays of the country is hereby promulgated for the information and guidance of all concerned.

SECTION 1. *Definition of terms.* For the purpose of this order, the following terms shall mean:

a. *Bay.* - An inlet of the sea or other bodies of water usually smaller than a gulf but usually with the same general characteristics where navigation for big and small crafts are defined.
b. *Canal.* - Deepest part of the river.
c. *Fishpen.* - An artificial enclosure constructed within a body of water for culturing fish and fishery/aquatic resources made up of poles closely arranged in an enclosure with wooden materials, screen or nylon netting to prevent escape of the fish.
d. *Fish cage.* - refers to an enclosure which is either stationary or floating made up of nets or screens sewn or fastened together and installed in the water with opening at the surface or covered and held in a place by wooden/bamboo posts or various types of anchors and floats.
e. *Fishpond.* - A land-based facility enclosed with earthen or stone material to impound water for growing fish.
f. *Fish trap.* - Fixed impounding nets, usually supported by either bamboo or wood stakes or held in place and maintained in form by a combination of floats or buoys and weights or anchor. The catch is naturally confined in a collecting unit and escape is prevented by labyrinths and/or non-return devices where entrance is such that fish has easy entrance but difficult escape.
g. *Fisheries Structures.* - All forms of water and land-based fisheries structures stationary or movable including but not limited to fish cages, fish pens, fishponds, fish corrals, and fish shelters which may obstruct the free navigational passage of any water craft along defined waterways or impede the flow of tide to and from the area.
h. *Lake.* - An inland body of water, an expanded part of a river, a reservoir formed by a dam, or a lake basin intermittently or permanently covered by water where designated navigational passages are defined.
i. *Obstruction to free flow of tide.* - All forms of water and land based structures constructed within one-fourth (1/4) distance along one side of streams and river embankments, whether permanent or movable which impede the free flow of tide to and from the area causing water stagnation and pollution and eventually causing fish kill.
j. *Obstruction to navigation.* - All forms of water-based structures, whether permanent or movable, which obstruct the free navigational passages of water transportation in waterways.
k. *River.* - A natural surface stream of water of considerable volume and a permanent or seasonal flow where navigational lanes are defined.
l. *Streams.* - A body of running water flowing in a channel on the surface of the ground, which could be a portion of a river, lake or bay.
m. *Tide.* - The alternating rise and fall of the surface water of the ocean, gulf, bays, estuaries connected with the ocean caused by the gravitational pull of the sun and the moon.

SECTION 2. Prohibition. It shall be unlawful for any person, lessee, licensee or permitee, to undertake or place any construction which will obstruct the free navigation in any stream, river, lake or bays flowing through or adjoining fish pens, fish traps and fishponds or impede the flow of the tide to and from the area. Any obstruction made in violation thereof shall be removed upon the order of the Secretary of Agriculture in coordination with other government agencies concerned at the expense of the lessee, licensee or occupants thereof, whenever applicable.

SECTION 3. Penalty. Violation of this order shall hold the offender liable to prosecution and upon conviction shall suffer the penalty from two thousand (2,000.00) pesos to ten thousand (P10,000.00) pesos or imprisonment from one month and one day to six (6) months or both such fine and imprisonment in the discretion of the court.

SECTION 4. Repealing clause. - All existing administrative orders, rules, regulations and guidelines which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Order are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SECTION 5. Effectivity. This order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the official gazette and/or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation and fifteen (15) days after registration with the Office of the National Administrative Register.

ISSUED on this **17th** day of **September** 2001 at Quezon City, Philippines.

LEONARDO Q. MONTEMAYOR
Secretary

Recommended by:

MALCOLM I. SARMIENTO, JR.
Director
Bureau of Fisheries
And Aquatic Resources

CESAR M. DRILON, JR.
Undersecretary for Fisheries
and Concurrently
Chairman, NFARMC

FISHERIES ADMINISTRATIV)
ORDER NO. 217 :
Series of 2001)

SUBJECT: Obstruction to Defined Migration Paths.

Pursuant to Sections 56 and 105 of R.A. No. 8550, this order prohibiting the undertaking of any construction which will obstruct any defined migration paths of migratory species such as river mouths and estuaries in the Philippines is hereby promulgated for the information and guidance of all concerned.

SECTION 1. *Definition of terms.* - For the purpose of this Order, the following terms shall mean:

a) *Migration path.* - A defined migration route of spawning, schooling or feeding migratory finfishes, going downstream or upstream migration.
b) *Migratory species.* - refers to any fishery species which in the course of their life could travel from freshwater to marine water or vice versa due to breeding, feeding and part of life cycle.
   Catadromous species. - Freshwater species that grow in freshwater environment but descends to the ocean to spawn or lay eggs.
   Anadromous species. - Marine species that grow in saltwater environment but ascends rivers to lake areas at certain seasons to breed or lay eggs.
   Amphidromous species. - Species of fish migrating from fresh to salt water environment and vice versa not for the purpose of breeding but as part of their life cycle.
c) *River mouth.* - The opening of a river serving as major tributary for a lake or a bay and is utilized as entrance and exit of migrating fish species to and from the bays and lakes.
d) *Estuary* - Marine environment serving as spawning ground for many migratory (Catadromous) species of fish making their downstream migration from the lake.

SECTION 2. Scope of Order. - This order covers all the following rivers (mouth and its tributaries) of the country which are defined as migratory passages of the following migrating fish species:

a) *Abra River (Abra, Mt. Province, Ilocos Sur).* - Upstream and downstream migration to River tributaries and connecting rivers (Tineg River) of Langiden, San Quintin, Pidigan, Tayum, Dolores, Lagayan, Bucay, Manabo, Luba, San Juan, La Paz, Bangued, Langanilag, Bantay and Santa, Ilocos Sur.
b) *Bicol River Basin (Camarines Sur).* - Upstream migration to Lake Buhi, Bato, Baao, Bula, downstream migration to San Miguel Bay.
c) *Bisuangan-Kumalarang Rivers (Zamboanga del Sur).* - Upstream migration to Lake Wood, downstream migration to Dumaguilas Bay. Labangan rivers down to Yllana Bay.
d) *Blu-an; Lowo-el Rivers (South Cotabato).* - Upstream migration to Lakes Sebu, Lahit, Siloton and Maughan, downstream migration to Sarangani Bay.
e) *Butas river (Mindoro).* - Upstream migration to Naujan Lake, downstream migration to Batangas Bay.
f) *Cagayan River System (Cagayan Valley).* - Upstream migration to Cagayan River tributaries, downstream migration to Babuyan Channel.
g) *Calinawan - Tubay Rivers (Surigao - Agusan).* - Upstream migration to Lake Mainit, downstream migration to Butuan Bay.
h) *Cotabato River Basin (Rio-Grande, Cotabato).* - Upstream migration to Buluan and Blinkong Lakes, downstream migration to the sea (Davao Gulf).
i) *Laoag River (Laoag, Ilocos Norte).* - Upstream migration to Laoag River tributaries and connecting rivers of Dingras, Sarrat, Solsona and Banna, downstream migration to South China Sea.
j) *Pansipit River (Batangas).* - Upstream migration to Lake Taal, downstream migration to Balayan Bay.

SCIENTIFIC NAMES AND FAMILIES OF MIGRATORY SPECIES

FAMILIES	COMMON/ ENGLISH NAME	LOCAL NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
1. Ambassidae	Glassfish	Langaray	*Ambassis sp.*
2. Anguillidae	Eel	Igat; palos	*Anguilla mouriliana*
3. Apogonidae	Cardinal fish	Dangat	*Apogon sp.*
	Cardinal fish	Dangat	*Amia sp.*
	Cardinal fish	Dangat	*Mionorus sp.*
4. Arildac	Sea catfish	Kanduli	*Arius sp.*
5. Atherinidae	Silverside	Guno	*Atherina sp.*
	Silverside	Guno	*Hepsetia sp.*
6. Belonidae	Garfish/Needle fish	Kulambalao/ Kulambabalo	*Tylosurus melanolus*
7. Carangidae	Cavalla	Maliputo	*Caranx ignobilis*
	Cavalla	Muslo	*Caranx marginatus*
	Cavalla	Muslo	*Caranx sexfaciatus*
8. Centriponidae	Giant seaperch	Apahap	*Lates calcarifer*
9. Chanidae	Milkfish	Bangus	*Chanos chanos*
10. Eleotridae	Sleeping goby	Palawan/ Bangayngay	*Ophiocara aporos*
	Goby	Bia	*Eleotris fusca*
	Eleotrid goby	Papalo/Lomag	*Hypseleotris modestus*
	Bia	Buguan	*Hypseleotris agilis*
	Bia	Goby	*Belobranchus sp.*
11. Elopidae	Tarpon	Buan-buan	*Megalops cyprinoides*
	Ten Pounder	Bid-bid	*Elops hawaiiensis*
12. Gerridae	Mojarra	Malakapas	*Gerres filamentosus*
	Mojarra	Malakapas	*Gerres punctatus*
13. Gobiidae	White goby	Ipon	*Glossogobius giurus*
	Dwarf goby	Dulong	*Merogobius lacustris*
14. Gobioidae	Eel goby	Bia	*Taenioides sp.*
	Eel shaped goby	Baliga	*Taenioides sp.*
15. Hemiramphidae	Halfbeak	Buguin	*Hemiramphus sp.*
	Halfbeak	Buguin	*Zenarchopterus sp.*
16. Khuliidae	Mountain bass	Damagan	*Kahlia sp.*
17. Leiognathidae	Slipmouth	Sap-sap	*Leiognathus equulus/L. caballus*
18. Lutjanidae	Gray Snapper	Maya-maya/Also	*Lutjanus sp.*
	White Spot Snapper	Maya-maya	*Lutjanus bohar*
	Malabar Red Snapper	Maya-maya	*Lutjanus malabaricus*
	Black Spot Red Snapper	Maya-maya	*Lutjanus monostigma*
19. Mugilidae	Gray Mullet	Banak/Aligasin	*Mugil cephalus*
	Thicked-Lipped Mullet	Banak	*Mugil dussumieri*
	Mullet	Banak	*Liza sp.*
	Mullet	Ludong	*Cestreaus plicatilis*
20. Polynemidae	Threadfin	Mamali	*Polynamus tetradactylum*
21. Pomacentridae	Damselfish	Puyong Dagat	*Pomacentrus tripunctatus*
22. Pomadasydae	Silver spotted grunt	Bakoko	*Pomadasys hasta*
23. Pristidae	Sawfish	Tagan	*Pristis microdon*
24. Scatophagidae	Spadefish/Butterfish	Kitang	*Scatophagus argus*
25. Serranidae	Grouper	Lapu-lapu	*Epinephalus sp.*
	High finned grouper	Lapu-lapu	*Cronileptus altivelis*
26. Siganidae	Siganid/Rabbit fish	Samaral	*Siganus sp.*
27. Sillaginidae	Sand borer sillaginid	Asohos	*Sillago sihama*
28. Symbranchidae	Swamp eel	Palos	*Synbrachus benganiensis*
29. Theraponidae	Taperoid Grunt	Pigek	*Mesopristes cancellatus*
	Convex line grunt	Bagaong	*Therapon jarbua*
30. Toxotidae	Archer fish	Kataba	*Toxotes sp.*

SECTION 3. Prohibition. - It shall be unlawful for the lessee, licensee or permittee, or anyone to undertake any construction that will obstruct the aforementioned paths of migratory fish, particularly those enumerated in the next preceding Section 2 of this order, up to one (1) kilometer seaward and one (1) kilometer upward of mouths of the aforecited rivers.

SECTION 4. Penalty - Violation of this order shall hold the offender liable to the penalty of fine from fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) to one hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) or imprisonment from seven (7) years to twelve (12) years, or both such fine and imprisonment in the discretion of the court including cancellation of the permit/license, if any, and dismantling of the obstruction at his own expense, and confiscation of the same, for disposition by the BFAR.

SECTION 5. Repealing Clause. - All existing administrative orders, rules, regulations and guidelines which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Order are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SECTION 6. Effectivity. - This order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette and/or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation and fifteen (15) days after its registration with the office of the National Administrative Register.

ISSUED this **17th** day of **September**, 2001 at Quezon City, Metropolitan Manila, Philippines.

LEONARDO Q. MONTEMAYOR
Secretary

Recommended by:

MALCOLM I. SARMIENTO, JR.
Director
Bureau of Fisheries
and Aquatic Resources

CESAR M. DRILON, JR.
Undersecretary for Fisheries
and concurrently
Chairman, NFARMC

FISHERIES ADMINISTRATIVE)
ORDER NO. 218 :
Series of 2001)

SUBJECT: Yearly Report on Aquaculture Projects

Pursuant to Sections 57 and 103 (b) of R.A. No. 8550, this Order on the yearly report on all aquaculture projects in the Philippines is hereby promulgated for the information and guidance of all concerned.

SECTION 1. Definition. - The terms as used in this order shall be construed as follows:

a. *Aquaculture project* - refers to fish cage, fishpen, fish hatchery, fishpond and fishfarming.
b. *Fish cage* - refers to an enclosure either stationary or floating, made up of nets, metal, or screen sewn or fastened together at all sides including the bottom, attached to a surface frame and secured by a mooring device, installed within a body of water for culturing fish.
c. *Fishpen* - An enclosure made up closely arranged poles staked to the bottom and surrounded with either fine bamboos, screens or nylon nettings constructed within a body of water for culturing fish, differing from fish cage with the absence of bottom netting.
d. *Fish hatchery.* - Lake-based or land-based structure designed to grow and culture fish for breeding and fish seed production.
e. *Fishpond.* - A land-based facility enclosed with earthen or concrete material to impound fish for growing purposes.
f. *Seafarming.* - The stocking of natural or hatchery-produced marine plants and animals under controlled conditions for rearing and harvesting purposes not limited to commercially-important fishes, mollusks (such as pearls and other bivalves) including seaweeds and seagrass.

SECTION 2. Prohibition. - It shall be unlawful for owners/operators to fail or not to report annually not later than January 31 of each year to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, through its regional offices, the type of species and volume of production of their aquaculture projects.

SECTION 3. Penalty. - Violation of this order by the fishpond lessee shall be a ground for cancellation of his fishpond lease agreement: *Provided,* That if the offender is the owner of a private fishpond, fishpen or fish cage, he shall be subject to the following penalties: (a) first offense, a fine of five hundred (P500.00) pesos per unreported hectare or fractio[illegible] thereof. (b) subsequent offense/s, a fine of one thousand (P1,00[illegible] unreported hectare or fraction thereof.

SECTION 4. Repeal. - All existing rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed [illegible] modified accordingly.

SECTION 5. Effectivity. - This order shall take effect fifteen [illegible] after its publication in the Official Gazette and/or in two (2) newspa[illegible] general circulation and fifteen (15) days after its registration with the [illegible] of the National Administrative Register.

ISSUED this 17th day of September, 2001 at Quezon City, Metropolitan Manila, Philippines.

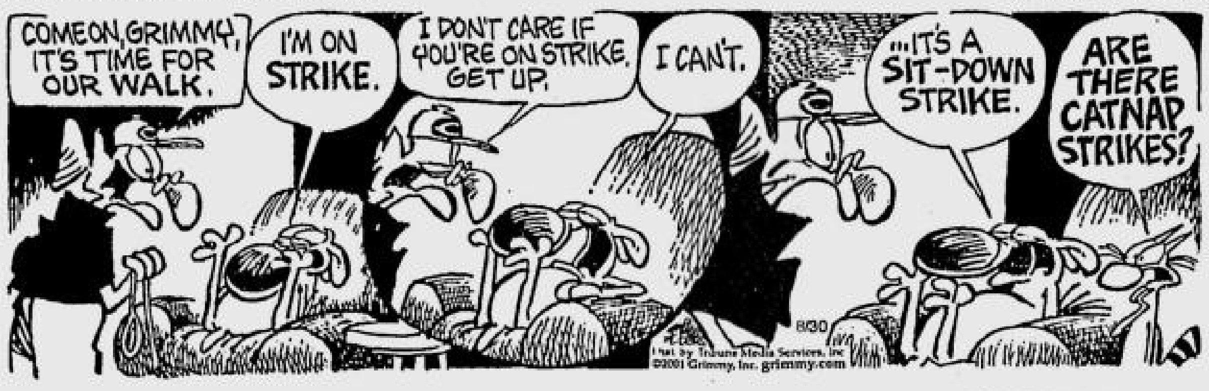
LEONA[illegible]DO

Recommended by:

MALCOLM I. SARMIENTO, JR.
Director
Bureau of Fisheries
and Aquatic Resources

CESA[illegible]
Undersecreta[illegible]
and c[illegible]
Chairma[illegible]

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM
BY MIKE PETERS


COME ON, GRIMMY, IT'S TIME FOR OUR WALK.
I'M ON STRIKE.
I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE ON STRIKE. GET UP.
I CAN'T.
...IT'S A SIT-DOWN STRIKE.
ARE THERE CATNAP STRIKES?
8/30
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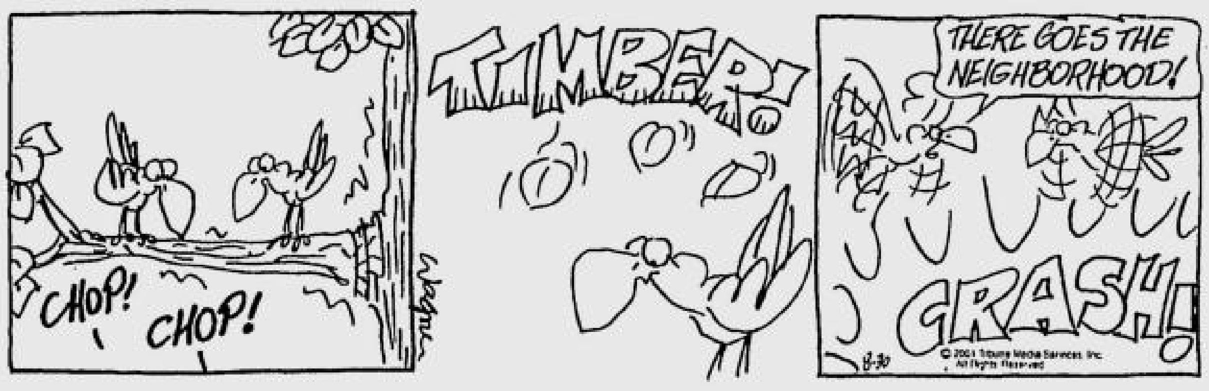
ANIMAL CRACKER
BY FRED WAGNER


CHOP! CHOP!
TIMBER!
THERE GOES THE NEIGHBORHOOD!
CRASH!
8-30
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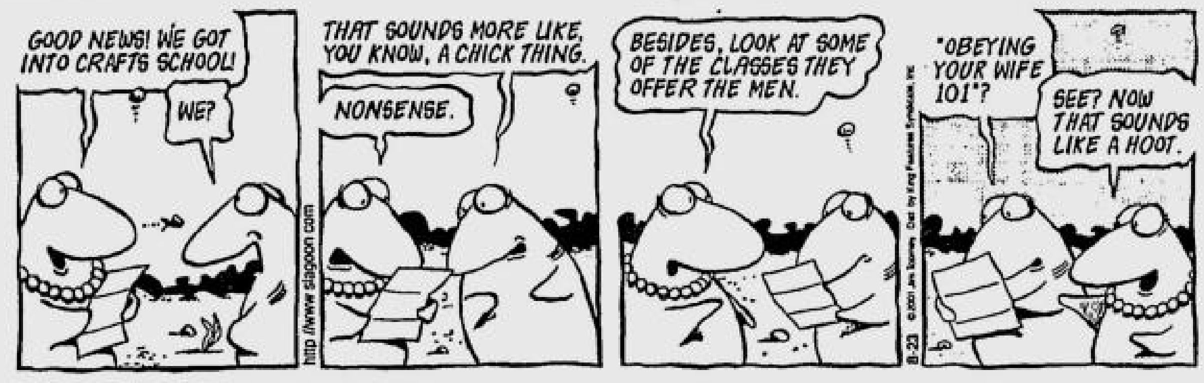
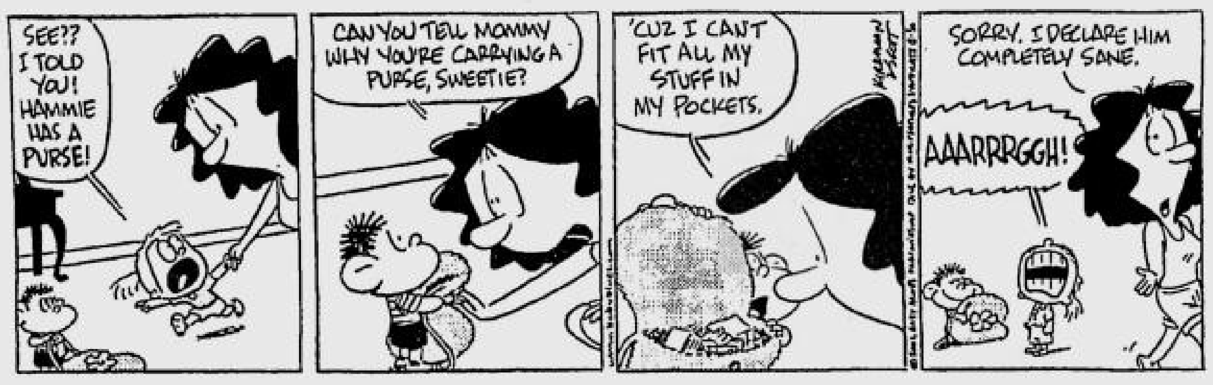
SHERMAN'S LAGOON
BY JIM TOOMEY


GOOD NEWS! WE GOT INTO CRAFTS SCHOOL!
WE?
THAT SOUNDS MORE LIKE, YOU KNOW, A CHICK THING.
NONSENSE.
BESIDES, LOOK AT SOME OF THE CLASSES THEY OFFER THE MEN.
"OBEYING YOUR WIFE 101"?
SEE? NOW THAT SOUNDS LIKE A HOOT.
http://www.slagoon.com
8-23

BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT


SEE?? I TOLD YOU! HAMMIE HAS A PURSE!
CAN YOU TELL MOMMY WHY YOU'RE CARRYING A PURSE, SWEETIE?
'CUZ I CAN'T FIT ALL MY STUFF IN MY POCKETS.
SORRY. I DECLARE HIM COMPLETELY SANE.
AAARRRGGH!

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Wilford Brimley, Jayne Meadows, A Martinez, Randy Bachman, Meat Loaf, Shaun Cassidy

Happy Birthday: A great year lies ahead as long as you don't try to do it all. Hone and test your finer skills. Those watching you accomplish one thing after another will marvel. You will be the grand master when it comes to mediating and pulling everyone together. If you let your lazy side take over, you will have regrets. Your numbers: 10, 13, 17, 23, 29, 41

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Support is just around the corner. Your ability to visualize will help persuade others of the possibilities. You can make wonderful contributions to any organization that you join.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Think twice before telling someone how to do something. You have your own difficulties finishing projects. It's better to focus on your career and let everything else ride.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your need to be in the center of things will bring added popularity. Don't sit at home alone even if you do feel down. Be the social butterfly.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Sudden changes in your financial situation should be pleasing. Focus on contracts, agreements and your portfolio. Home-improvement projects will pay off and add comfort to your surroundings.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your partner will be unpredictable, but enticing him or her can be enthralling. If you are too dramatic and go overboard, though, you can expect disapproval. It's a fine line you walk today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Focus on work, money and advancement. The best opportunities crop up if you keep an open mind. You just need to follow through on the good ideas that pass you by to have a real winner of a deal.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't sit around doing nothing. Make plans and take action. You will enjoy social activities, interesting conversations, interest groups or creative projects. Travel will spark enthusiasm and new ideas.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Travel will promote romantic connections. You will communicate easily and develop new friendships. Involvement in groups will be beneficial and lead to valuable information.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Focus on finances. You can form beneficial business partnerships. Talk to those in a position of power about your intentions. Money can be made if you become involved in a worthwhile project that offers a handsome payoff.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your creative talents will surface through your response to situations. Use a sensitive approach to appeal to colleagues for assistance. Business trips will turn out favorably.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Romantic opportunities may not be as they appear. Build on friendships rather than on an initial intimate encounter. Don't reveal information that is personal or confidential.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Problems with colleagues will cause setbacks if you are too open about your feelings. Keep your thoughts private f and focus on your romantic life.

Birthday Baby: You are incredibly bright, articulate and ready to try just about anything. You have a gentle side that is sympathetic toward others. Yet your ability to keep some distance allows you to offer practical advice.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com

1	2	3	4	5	■	6	7	8	9	■	10	11	12	13
14					■	15				■	16			
17					18					■	19			
20						■	21			22				
■	■	■	23			24	■	25				■	■	■
26	27	28	■	■	29		30	■	31			32	33	34
35			36	37	■	38		39	■	40				
41					■	42			■	43				
44					■	45			■	46				
47					48	■	49		50	■	■	51		
■	■	■	52			53	■	54		55	56	■	■	■
57	58	59					60	■	61			62	63	64
65				■	66			67						
68				■	69				■	70				
71				■	72				■	73				

By Stanley B. Whitten
Highwood, IL

8/13/01

ACROSS
1 Book of maps
6 __ Hari
10 Sharp intake of breath
14 Inscribe
15 Rehan and Huxtable
16 Nora's pooch
17 Logger
19 Close
20 Upper house
21 Connect again
23 Mausoleum
25 Snare
26 Rather's network
29 "__ the fields we go..."
31 Watery impact
35 Stint in the army
38 Cicero's lang.
40 Sri __
41 Ancient manuscript markings
42 Botanist Gray
43 Go in
44 Tartan
45 Sault __ Marie
46 Killy or Tomba, e.g.
47 "__ Fidelis"
49 __ Khan IV
51 Pig's pad
52 Grain husk
54 Former superpower's letters
57 Current regulator
61 Groups of twenty
65 Jot
66 Minnesota cager
68 Gloomy
69 Always
70 Greek fabler
71 Squeal to a halt
72 Gambling city
73 Secreting organ

DOWN
1 Pointed tools
2 Faithful
3 Paint a word picture
4 Ready for the pitch
5 Take care of
6 Mil. rank
7 Hebrew month
8 Be silent: mus.
9 Questioners
10 Boarding bridge
11 On the briny
12 Doe's mate
13 Whittle
18 Adventure hero Williams
22 City near Marco Island
24 Lugosi and Bartok
26 Uses an axe
27 Sacred book
28 Vapor
30 Religious Jamaican, for short
32 Those against
33 Trapshooting
34 Part of HST
36 Paper holder
37 Seekers' quarries
39 Korean city
48 Working cat
50 African fox
53 Ingenuous
55 Scrawny one
56 Part of a spur
57 Frees from
58 "Peter Pan" pirate
59 Needle case
60 Certain feds
62 Ponselle or Parks
63 Carolina college
64 Nob Hill cops: abbr.
67 Sis's sib

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

M	A	P	P	E	D	■	S	T	A	U	B	A	C	H
O	F	L	A	T	E	■	C	O	R	N	E	L	I	A
B	R	O	K	A	W	■	R	U	M	I	N	A	N	T
C	I	V	I	L	■	S	U	R	■	T	I	B	E	T
A	C	E	S	■	G	A	B	S	■	S	N	A	R	E
P	A	R	T	I	A	L	■	■	■	■	■	M	A	R
■	■	■	A	L	L	O	T	S	■	A	G	A	M	A
B	R	I	N	E	■	N	O	T	■	U	L	N	A	S
R	E	M	I	X	■	S	T	R	O	K	E	■	■	■
A	S	P	■	■	■	■	■	E	A	S	E	F	U	L
S	P	O	O	K	■	S	C	A	R	■	F	I	R	E
S	O	L	A	R	■	I	R	K	■	T	U	L	S	A
I	N	I	T	I	A	T	E	■	W	I	L	L	I	S
E	S	T	E	L	L	E	S	■	O	N	L	I	N	E
R	E	E	N	L	I	S	T	■	W	A	Y	N	E	S

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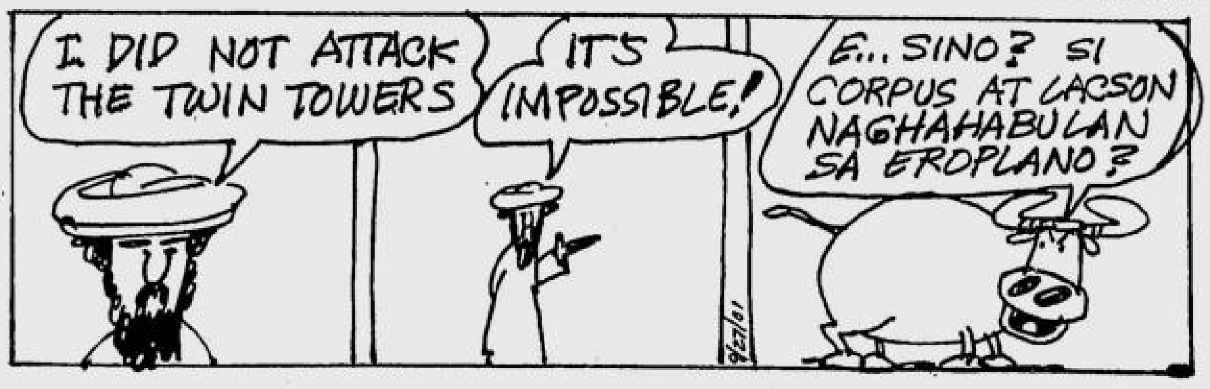
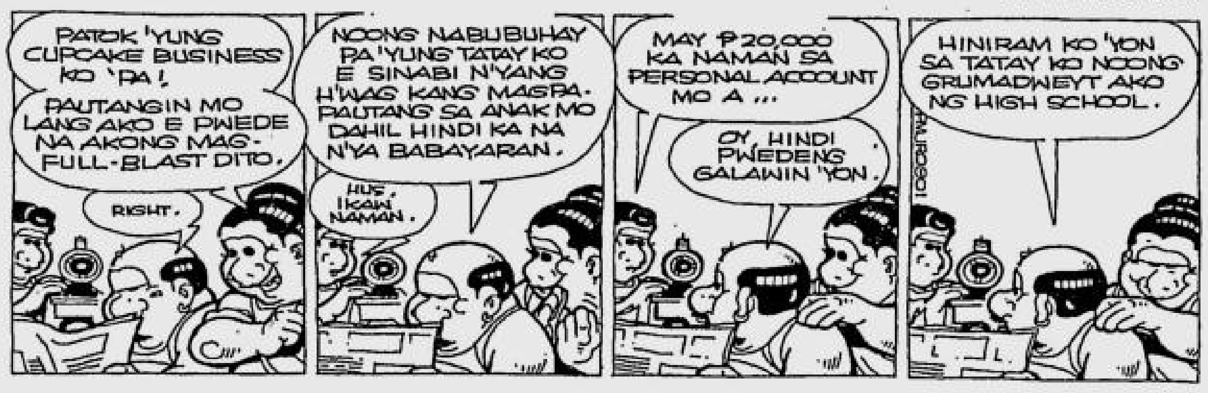
8/13/01

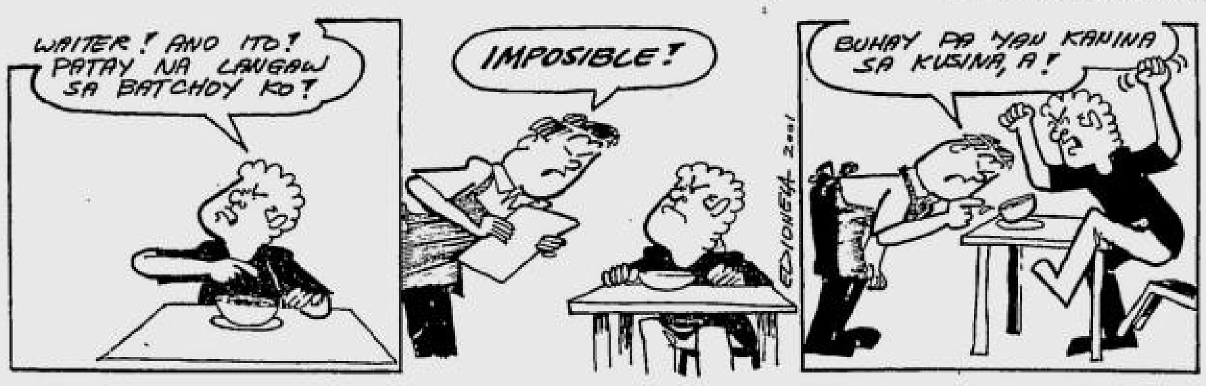
A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA


I DID NOT ATTACK THE TWIN TOWERS
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
E... SINO? SI CORPUS AT LACSON NAGHAHABULAN SA EROPLANO?
9/27/01

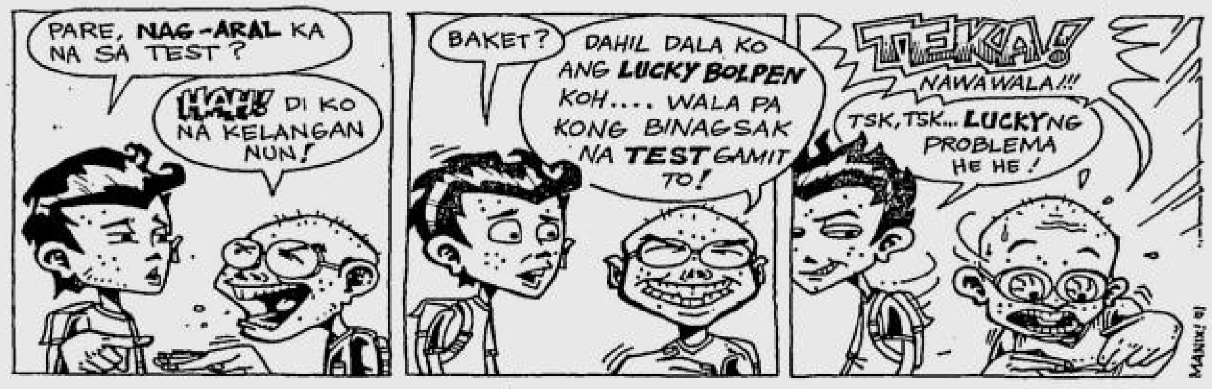
PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR


PATOK 'YUNG CUPCAKE BUSINESS KO 'PA!
PAUTANGIN MO LANG AKO E PWEDE NA AKONG MAG-FULL-BLAST DITO.
RIGHT.
NOONG NABUBUHAY PA 'YUNG TATAY KO E SINABI N'YANG H'WAG KANG MAGPA-PAUTANG SA ANAK MO DAHIL HINDI KA NA N'YA BABAYARAN.
HUS, IKAW NAMAN.
MAY ₱20,000 KA NAMAN SA PERSONAL ACCOUNT MO A...
OY, HINDI PWEDENG GALAWIN 'YON.
HINIRAM KO 'YON SA TATAY KO NOONG GRUMADWEYT AKO NG HIGH SCHOOL.

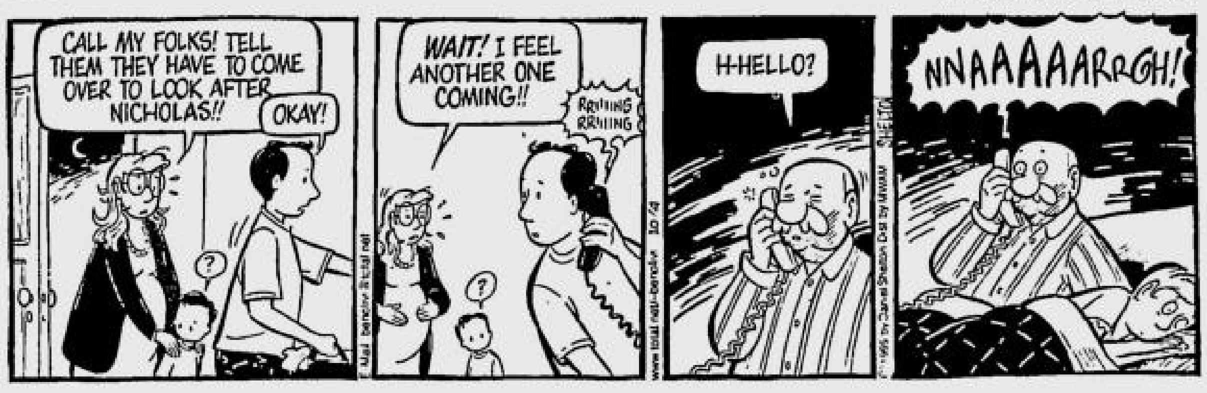
SIMO
BY EDGAR DIONELA


WAITER! ANO ITO! PATAY NA LANGAW SA BATCHOY KO!
IMPOSIBLE!
BUHAY PA 'YAN KANINA SA KUSINA, A!
EDIONELA 2001

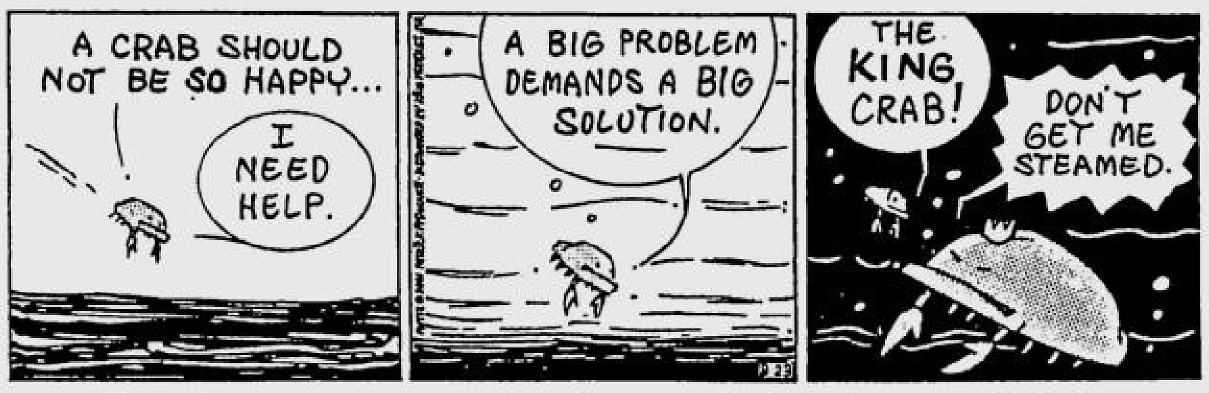
GARAPATA BLOOD
BYJOHN PAUL/BENG/MANIX


PARE, NAG-ARAL KA NA SA TEST?
HAH! DI KO NA KELANGAN NUN!
BAKET?
DAHIL DALA KO ANG LUCKY BOLPEN KOH.... WALA PA KONG BINAGSAK NA TEST GAMIT TO!
TEKA!
NAWAWALA!!!
TSK, TSK... LUCKYNG PROBLEMA HE HE!
MANIX! 01

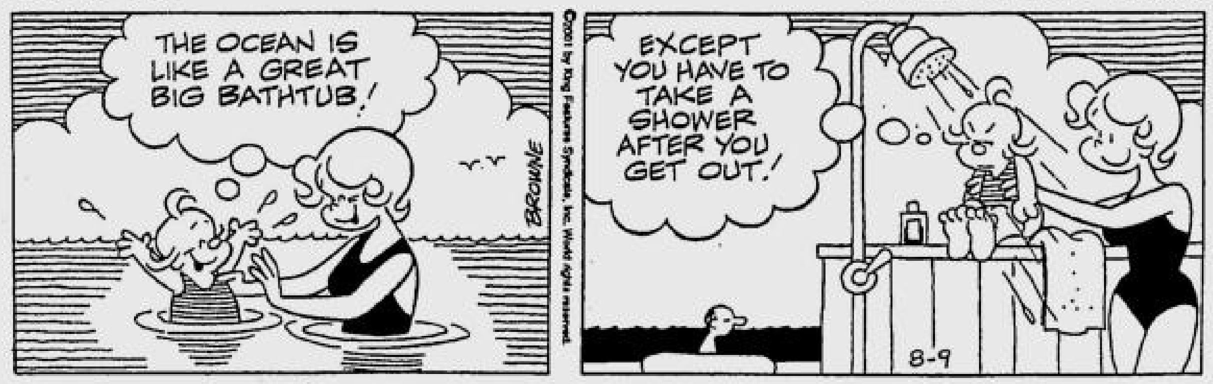
BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON


CALL MY FOLKS! TELL THEM THEY HAVE TO COME OVER TO LOOK AFTER NICHOLAS!!
OKAY!
WAIT! I FEEL ANOTHER ONE COMING!!
RRIIING RRIIING
H-HELLO?
NNAAAAARRGH!
SHELTON

MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL


A CRAB SHOULD NOT BE SO HAPPY...
I NEED HELP.
A BIG PROBLEM DEMANDS A BIG SOLUTION.
THE KING CRAB!
DON'T GET ME STEAMED.

HI AND LOIS
BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


THE OCEAN IS LIKE A GREAT BIG BATHTUB!
EXCEPT YOU HAVE TO TAKE A SHOWER AFTER YOU GET OUT!
BROWNE
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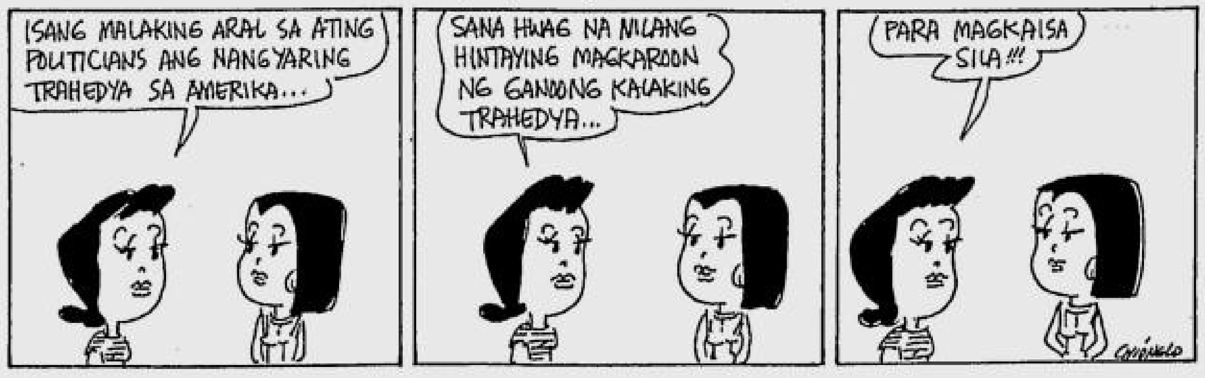
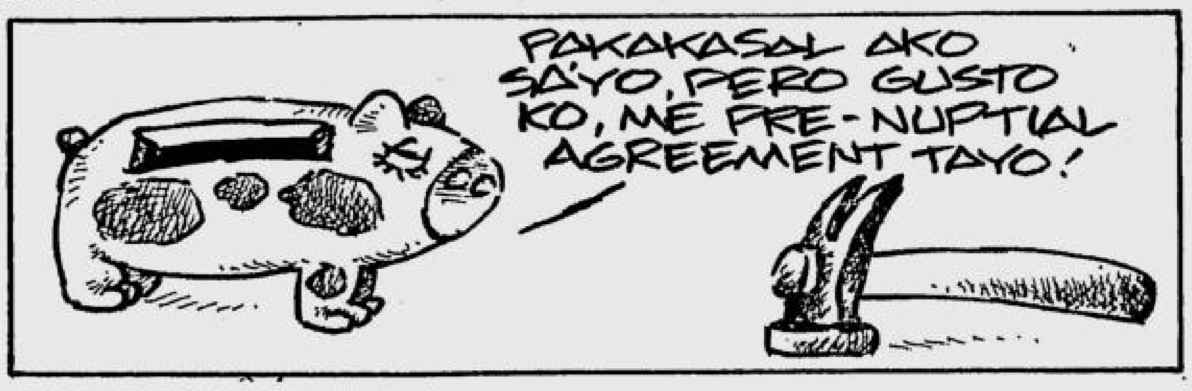
8-9

LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ISANG MALAKING ARAL SA ATING POLITICIANS ANG NANGYARING TRAHEDYA SA AMERIKA...
SANA HWAG NA NILANG HINTAYING MAGKAROON NG GANOONG KALAKING TRAHEDYA...
PARA MAGKAISA SILA!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK
BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


PAKAKASAL AKO SA'YO, PERO GUSTO KO, ME PRE-NUPTIAL AGREEMENT TAYO!

Nissan Cefiro: Still the class leader

BY RAYMOND B. TRIBDINO
& TESSA R. SALAZAR

NISSAN Cefiro Brougham

WHEN introduced back in 1996, Nissan's velvety Cefiro challenged segment leader Honda Accord every step of the way. Not only did it have an excellent 6-cylinder powerplant (tagged the VQ by Nissan's engineers), which rivaled Honda's 2-liter SOHC VTEC, it also boasted of the patented Multi-Link Beam (MLB) rear suspension which provided exceptional stability and body control. But it is its class-leading interior space, long roster of standard features and competitive price that made the Cefiro overtake its rivals since 1996.

Nissan revised the Cefiro only twice since, first with the Elite, then with the Brougham (pronounced bro-um) VIP. The Brougham overflows with a roster of features, which unfortunately do not include a portable refrigerator, bread toaster and a coffee maker.

It however has almost everything else. An audio-visual system with roof-mounted LCD monitor coupled to a 6-disc changer that doubles as a VCD player. A footrest combines with a back massager. There's an air purifier. Sunshades. Two-tone paint finish.

Cornering lamps. Auxiliary foglamps. Dual tailpipe finisher. Chromed front grille and chromed other bits and pieces elsewhere. False woodgrain everywhere. The list is overwhelming.

You'd wonder. With all this added weight, does the Cefiro ever move?

It does, and quickly, too

Tessa: I've driven her last year, but as far back as I can remember, I felt her stability and "heavyweightiness" during twists and turns, while the lightness surfaces when cruising fast climbing up bridges and faster driving on the highways.

Raymond: Right you are. You've got a really compact 6-cylinder engine under there. Gobs of horsepower and a nice, swift powerband, tons of torque, too. All that power will be put to waste if you don't harness it properly. So that's where the MLB comes in. Nissan engineers claim it is the best rear suspension setup for front-wheel-drive cars. Provides lateral stability, preserves the wheel's yaw and pitch and all that mumbo-jumbo. A pretty nifty piece of engineering, simple but elegantly functional.

Tessa: It's so smooth and quiet and powerful that every step of the gas I felt a sudden urge to look at the gas gauge to see if I still had something left.

Raymond: That's 150 horses from the 2.0-liter engine. The throttle is so precise; it'll keep spot on 100 kph when the radar guns are there. But it can blast to 165 kph in under-20 seconds. If you want to push it, it'll go as fast as 195 kph. And in style. Ummm...is that a siren?

Cushioned ride

Raymond: Nissan never gave me the privilege to formally test-drive the new Cefiro—Elite or Brougham. Luckily, I have two *ninongs* (godfathers) who both own Cefiros.

Tessa: I was lucky to be able to drive a black Cefiro Brougham one weekend last year. (Test drive *pila* for motoring reporters was so long.)

Raymond: I'll pick *Ninong* V. (Many also call him *Manong* Ernie because of his uncanny resemblance to the maven and weatherman, Ernie Baron.) Can I have the keys, *ninong*?

Ninong V.: Can you fill her up, full tank before you return it?

Tessa: Sure.

Raymond: The one single thing I truly hate about luxury cars is the isolation. Ditto with the Cefiro. You don't know what's happening out there. Inches upon inches of insulation deaden the already quiet VQ engine. Then there is almost no wind noise from the A-pillars even at speed. Well at least, I can't hear any. Nor do I hear the rumble of the tires as they bite into the asphalt.

Ninong V.: That's why I chose it as my company car. I like the Cefiro because it is so quiet. It rides so elegantly.

Raymond: What about those other thingies. The VCD, back massager and stuff, did you like them?

Ninong V: To some extent, they're useful luxuries. It came with the price of the car. Besides, if they break down, these little things look awfully hard to fix.

Movies to go

Tessa: I wasn't able to experience the VCD because it wasn't functioning when I test-drove it last year. I did try to turn it on several times but without success, too bad. Besides, I couldn't really enjoy it because the screen monitor's at the back passenger side—which, by the way—should be the case (here goes KJ me again).

Raymond: I couldn't enjoy it, I was always driving.

Ninong: My point too. Admittedly the VCD provides a lot of distraction, oftentimes when stuck in Ortigas traffic while on my way home, I plop in a disc of my favorite movies. But without a driver, it's unusable; you don't want this kind of distraction when you are driving. That's why, I could live without it.

Tessa: I suggest you maintain your Brougham's VCD on top condition just in case you find a driver.

Raymond: Although I am not a fan of wood veneer finish, especially in the steering wheel where it gets a bit slippery, I am not complaining about the faux wood here. It is done nicely. Well, okay, maybe it's a bit overdone. It's everywhere! But at least the grain and shade of wood are very appropriate and exquisite.

Tessa: Leather seats are impressive but what really caught my passengers' attention was the princely elegance of leisure stuff. Back massagers for the back passengers, for instance. I tried it myself while on the PDI parking lot and I nearly fell asleep. But what was really funny was the front passenger's seat that could be converted into a foot stool.

Compact design

Raymond: The Cefiro looks smaller than it really is. The compact design is part of its appeal.

Tessa: One look at the Cefiro Brougham even for noncar enthusiasts would elicit a gloating look. It looks elegantly expensive.

Raymond: And the two-tone paint scheme apes the more expensive European luxury cruisers.

Tessa: If its aim is to ape European luxury cars, it did succeed, don't you think?

Raymond: But it is an aging design. Hopefully Nissan will bring in the stunning 2002 Cefiro soon. I already saw it up close and it's really beautiful. With a choice of a 150-hp 2.0-liter and a 200-hp 3.0-liter engine and multireflector headlights penned in the same way as the new Sentra, it will definitely reaffirm the mighty Cefiro's position in the mid-size car market.

Ninong V: Now that'll be my next car.

For all its interior wonders, top-level build quality and affordable engine and suspension technology, the Cefiro rates **9 out of 10** total points. Lows are for the dated looking rims and tacky chrome bits outside. Highs come in for just about everything else, including the price tag.

Ooops, sorry

IN OUR Ford Sport Trac test-drive article last week, we said the Sport Trac costs "P1.6 million." Wrong. The base model is only P1.375 million inclusive of Ford's built tough quality and envious stares of onlookers.

Will Toyota do it again?

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

OF ALL the cars in Toyota Motor Corp.'s stable, it is the Corolla that has earned for the marque a reputation for reliability and low maintenance. As of last year, Toyota claims to have sold over 28 million Corollas in more than 140 countries, making it the world's best-selling passenger car. Certainly, a sales record of 28 million cars is nothing to sneeze at.

In some ways, however, this reputation for solid reliability has worked against Toyota. The younger generation began to regard Toyota cars as bland and boring, prompting Japan's No. 1 auto manufacturer to reinvent its marketing strategy. The introduction of the RAV4, the first car-based compact SUV, and the funky Echo plus the "Passion Road" advertising campaign succeeded in injecting some youthful appeal and excitement into Toyota's image.

Now, Toyota aims to recapture the pole position in passenger car sales in the Philippines by fielding a totally renovated Corolla Altis with style and performance as the major selling points. Style in terms of a sportier, aggressively aerodynamic new shape complete with bigger, 4-lamp multi-reflector headlights and a vibrant "Break into Style" ad blitz starring gorgeous hunk Brad Pitt. Performance in terms of a more powerful VVT-i (Variable Valve Timing-intelligent) engine as standard in all six variants of the 2001 Corolla Altis to rival market leader Honda Civic's VTEC 3 powerplant.

After the stylish new Corolla Altis was shown to the media last July, I was raring to test-drive it for a comparo with the 2001 Honda Civic VTi-S (reviewed in "A New Dimension in 1.6-Liter Motoring," 4/26/01) and the 2001 Nissan Sentra Exalta GS Grandeur ("The Exalta Becomes Grandeur," 7/19/01). Unfortunately, the unit delivered for test-driving last week was not the top-of-the-line 1.8G A/T (automatic transmission) nor even the 1.6G A/T, so a comparo is out of the question for today. It would be unfair to compare the Altis 1.6E M/T (manual transmission) with the top-of-the-line Civic VTi-S and Exalta Grandeur. At P752,000, the 1.6E M/T is only fourth in this year's hierarchy of six Altis variants. The others are the 1.8G A/T (P898,000), the 1.6G A/T (P832,000), the 1.6E A/T (P787,000), the 1.6J A/T (P727,000) and the 1.6J M/T (P692,000).

That said, let us compare the 2001 Corolla Altis 1.6E M/T with its predecessor, the Corolla 1.6 GLi M/T. The most notable difference is in horsepower and torque. While the 1.6 GLi is capable of 110 Hp/6,000 rpm at most and max torque of 145 Nm/4,800 rpm, the 1.6-liter, 16-valve 4-in-line DOHC VVT-i engine of the Altis 1.6E, whether M/T or A/T, delivers 116 Hp/6,000 rpm max and 160 Nm/4,400 rpm max torque. That horsepower output is almost the same as the 1.8 SEG Altis (116 Nm/5,600 rpm), the predecessor of the new 1.8G Altis, whose horsepower has been boosted to 145/6,000. It's tempting to compare the latter to the 1998 Civic SiR's 160 horses at 7,600 rpm, but that's another story altogether. ("All right, SiR?")

With the introduction of the 2001 Altis VVT-i, the Corolla withdraws from the 1.3-liter market (which the Ford Lynx recently reentered following the intro of the 1.3-liter Toyota Echo hatchback) and consolidates its monopoly of the 1.8-liter class. At the same time, Toyota challenges Honda's domination of variable valve timing engine technology as the key to passenger car market leadership.

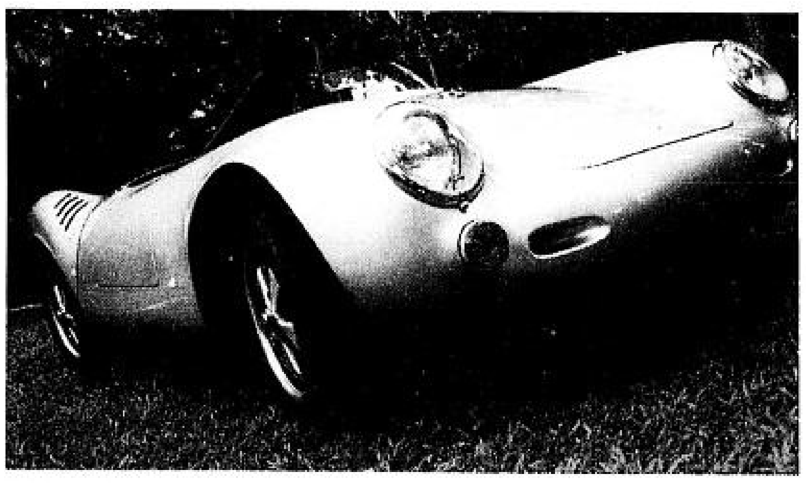
Last month, the new Altis reportedly grabbed almost 28 percent of total passenger car sales with 732 units sold, outselling all its competitors. Pessimists may point out that the newest car on the block usually outsells those that were launched earlier in the year, but often enough, this is a temporary phenomenon. The question is: Will Toyota do it again and leapfrog to the top with the 2001 Corolla Altis?

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Gravity: it's not just a good idea, it's the law.

* * *

(E-mail comments to aida_sevilla@pacific.net.ph)



THE PORSCHE 550A Spyder replica done in silver, the national racing color of Germany during the early '30s to the late '50s.

Cats Motors brings Mercedes-Benz to Motorshow

BY JUN ALANO

CATS Motors Inc., one of the leading dealers of Mercedes-Benz cars in the Philippines, is joining next week's Motorshow International (Philippines) at the World Trade Center to display its extensive line of models in line with the company's thrust to make Mercedes-Benz the top luxury car in the country.

Cats Motors will occupy Pavillion A of the spacious World Trade Center Metro Manila, home of Motorshow Philippines for the past several years. This year's Motorshow edition is slated from Oct. 3 to 7.

Authorized dealer

The CMI is the leading importer and authorized dealership of Mercedes-Benz distributor Commercial Motors Corp. It has a modern complex on Edsa that is comparable to world standards and includes its Mercedes-Benz boutique with items on sales such as watches, tie clips, jackets and T-shirts.

The CMI offers a comprehensive range of Mercedes-Benz models from the S-class, the high-end E-class, C-class, A-class, M-class, V-class, SLK Roadster, and CLK Cabriolet to coupés.

Newest addition

It recently launched the C-class sports coupé in the Philippine market, the newest addition to the C-class family that projects a younger look and emphasizes adventurous driving.

CMI officials said they would bring in the most popular models at Motorshow and entertain inquiries regarding the possibility of having customized Mercedes-Benzes: meaning any color and any brand that the customer wants.

Foreign participants

Apart from car assemblers and dealers like Cat Motors, Motorshow International's 12th edition has also attracted foreign companies and representatives, as well as members of the diplomatic community, who are interested in meeting the country's major automotive industry players.

Participants from the diplomatic community include the Embassy of Sri Lanka and the Italian Trade Commission.

Three companies from Thailand are also taking part at Motorshow International. These are Bunjong Industrial Co. Ltd., P. J. B. Enterprises Co. Ltd., and T. R. Products and Marketing Co. Ltd., which are all dealers of car care products and car accessories.

Some local exhibitors like the Energy and Aviation Support Corp., exclusive distributor of French-made Eyquem spark plugs in the Philippines, also said they have invited their major suppliers from abroad to visit Motorshow.

Porsche Spyder featured at new car, truck show

A BEAUTIFULLY crafted replica of a 1953 Porsche 550A Spyder is among the numerous customized cars and sport trucks on display at the New Custom Car & Sport Truck Show 2001.

Owned by Porsche enthusiast Gabby Valdez, this replica is the best example of the limited production Porsche that became a legend not only as a result of its racing pedigree, but also because a similar car was crashed by icon, James Dean, which ultimately led to his untimely death.

The replica produced by Beck Engineering of California was assembled by Nene Syquia of Michel Motors and all painting, engine rebuilding, suspension, upholstery and detailing work was done by Martin delos Reyes.

The annual last quarter event, which opened yesterday, will end on Sunday at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall B, Ortigas Center, Edsa, Mandaluyong City.

Organized by TradeShow International Inc., the show provides motoring enthusiasts with the latest in automobile customizing and modifications.

The 5-day event also have motor-sport-related seminars such as "Karting-A Stepping Stone Formula 1 Racing"; "How to Get Started in Motorsports"; "Basics on Slalom Racing"; "How to get Started in Road Biking" and "Motorsports Lead to Defensive Driving." Also, videos about motor racing and the like will be shown every day.

The show is presented by Motolite with Shell Helix/Velocity as secondary presentor. Sponsors are Pioneer, BMB Karaoke Super Brand, 105.1 Crossover, 99.5 RT, 89.9 Magic, 103.5 K-Lite and Pharmaton.

Toyota No. 1 again; cheers to Honda's Arnel

(From Page B12)

What struck me were Tokyo's well-paved roads. Everywhere I went, not a single hole, nor a bump or a mini hump, could be spotted.

On Monday, Sept. 24, I went to Yokohama for the Peñalosa-Tokuyama fight. The trip, consisting of almost a hundred kilometers, was a breeze. No traffic at all. Reason: The road system was a technological wonder. Layers upon layers of flyovers—stretching miles and miles away-dotted Tokyo's road system all the way to Yokohama.

We've really been left behind as Japan's highway roads are now being copied by Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia—not to mention the tiny island nation of Singapore.

When will we ever begin restructuring our city roads—if not the North and South Diversion Roads?

Ah, only the Skyway is our saving grace.

* * *

Here's a letter from Johnny B. Angeles Jr., executive director of the Philippine Motor Association.

"This is in reference to your suggestion to extend the validity of vehicle registration to three years.

"We agree to the convenience it will bring to vehicle owners considering that their visit to the LTO will be cut by 66 percent. However, there may be some technicalities in implementing this program. For one, R.A. 4136 states that the registration of motor vehicles is done annually and an amendment should be done by Congress to change the term to three years.

"Second, we are still in the transition phase in implementing the Road Users' Tax Law. According to the law, the amount that would be charged from the motorists in registering their vehicles would increase each year until reaching the 'permanent' registration fee in 2004.

"In light of this, we would like to suggest that we start from what the law has already provided for—driver's license validity of five years.

"According to Section 23, 3rd paragraph of RA 136:

"Except for student permits and new licenses, all driver's licenses shall be valid for three consecutive years reckoned from the birth date of the licensee, unless sooner revoked or suspended: Provided, however, subject to Section 26 hereof, any holder of a professional or nonprofessional driver's license who has not committed any violation during the three-year period shall be entitled to a renewal of such license for a five-year period (As amended by BP Blg. 398, May 18, 1983)..."

This is a good incentive for motorists to become more responsible drivers and a fair reward to those who have kept their record clean of traffic violations and accidents.

Thanks to the efforts of General Abenina, this scheme is not difficult to implement. Since the LTO is already computerizing their database on driver records, they can easily find out if a motorist can avail of the five-year license.

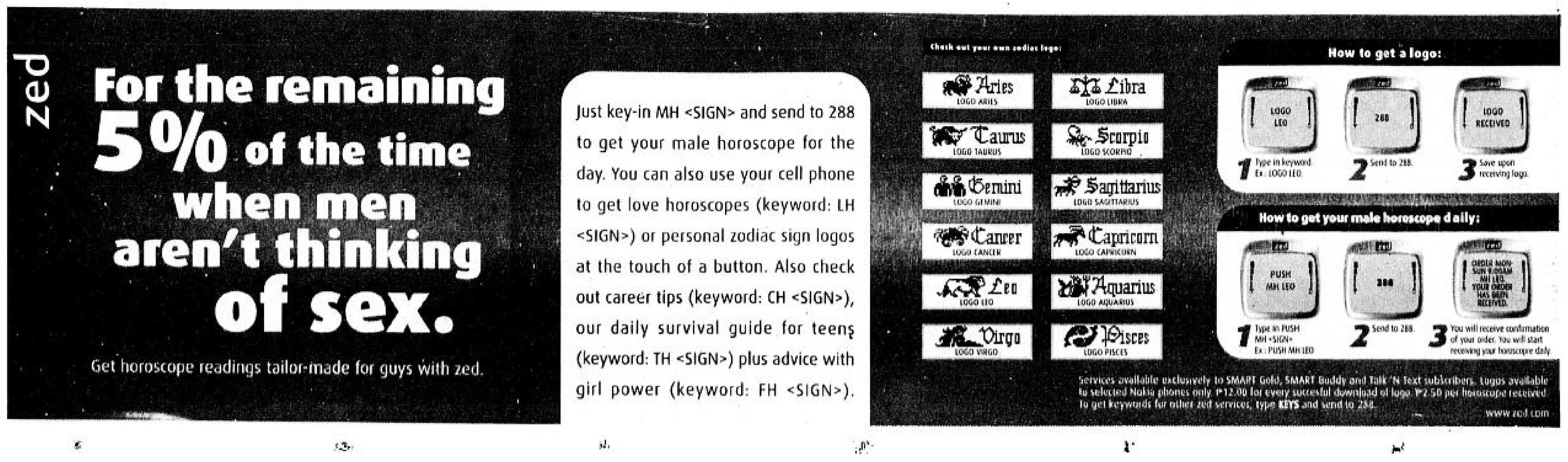
"In some countries, the term of license can be up to 10 years. A driver's license issued in Germany has lifetime validity (Czech Republic and Poland issue similar licenses).

Thank you very much and more power to your column."

Thank you, too, Johnny for your well-researched and thought-provoking letter. God bless you.

* * *

QUOTE ME. Always disembark on the safe side. A good habit can save lives.



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MOTORING

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor

Get rid of that 'blind spot' for safe driving

BY TESSA
R. SALAZAR

YOU often read this on side view mirrors: "Caution, images on mirror are closer than they appear." Car manufacturers should add something here, like "What you don't see in the mirror doesn't necessarily mean it isn't there."

Fred was a cautious motorist. Even before the seatbelt act became law he instilled in his two kids the value of buckling up. He followed road signs and stoplights to the color and letter. He was always calm and patient on the road, never getting into conflicts—all for the love of his family.

But one day, as he was changing lanes on the south expressway, the unexpected happened. He didn't see another car change to his lane, though he saw nothing but empty highway on his side view mirrors.

The last thing Fred remembered was shattered glass raining on his face, metal twisting around his body.

Dina, a fresh graduate, was recently hired as a sales representative of a multinational company. She was driving northbound on a Quezon City highway one day. Late in a meeting and lost, Dina wanted to shift to the right lane. There was a vehicle that she waited to go past her car. She went on, checked back to see if another vehicle was behind. She thought everything was clear and then started to change lane.

Dina hit a car that appeared to come out of nowhere.

Figure 1: *Normal Side Mirror Position*

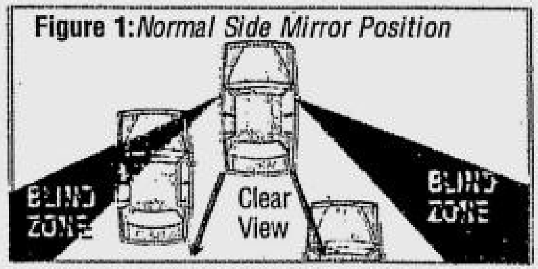
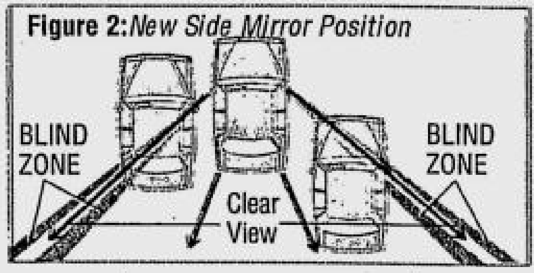


Figure 2: *New Side Mirror Position*



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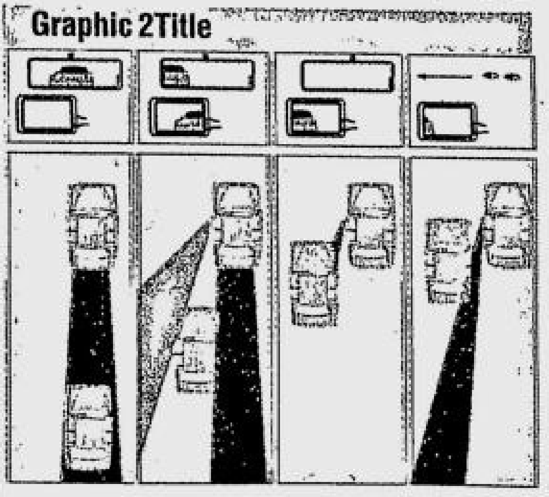

NEW SIDE MIRROR POSITIONING

Adjust the rear view mirror to give you a view directly to the rear.

She didn't make it to her meeting.

Main culprit

Rear view mirrors could be both an indispensable guide and a source of our false sense of security and bad judgment. Drivers, passengers and loved ones often get involved in vehicular accidents because of "blind spots" resulting from incorrectly adjusted side mirrors. Though motoring groups in the country don't have specific data of accidents or casualties involving side view mirrors, the numerous tales of accident survivors point to the side view mirror as the main culprit to many road mishaps.

The Traffic Management Group pinpointed driver error as the cause of 8,338 accidents last year, 7,055 cases in 1999 and 5,814 cases in 1998. How much of these caused by the mirror we don't know for sure.

A separate record fingers bad overtaking as the cause of 121 accidents in 2000, 116 cases in 1999 and 233 cases in 1998 and bad turning at 412 cases last year, 382 cases in 1999 and 244 cases in 1998. In most cases, trusting too much on the side mirror that was incorrectly positioned in the first place could account for much of these accidents.

In the United States, there are more than 600,000 lane change/merge accidents every year. More than 200 people die each year in these accidents. Sixty percent of drivers causing the crash say they didn't see the other vehicle.

Adjust, adjust

A motorist is advised to adjust the driver's side mirror correctly by resting one's head against the driver's side window and then turning the mirror so that you just see the side of your car. Then move to the exact center of the vehicle—between the driver and front passenger seat—and turn the passenger side mirrors so that you can just see the side of your car.

Don't be surprised if you won't see your car in either your side mirrors when you begin to drive. Driving gurus say you should only be able to see on your side mirrors the tiniest bit of the sides of your car, while some even say you shouldn't see your car at all.

Ross Bentley's column in Canadian Direct Insurance couldn't have said it better: the first step is to adjust the rear view mirror to do exactly that—give you a view directly to the rear. Position it so that it best covers your view straight out the rear window. Don't bother tilting it to one side or the other to assist with your view of traffic to either side of your car. That's what the side mirrors are for.

No blind spots

You may not see your car's two sides on your side view mirrors, but at least if one car leaves your field of vision from the rear view mirror, the outside mirror picks it up. This is according to a report from the safe driving aid of the National Safety Council on safe driving. It guarantees no blind spots. The report added that as usual, cars behind you show up in the inside rearview. The moment the car leaves your field of vision of the rear view mirror inside the car, the outside mirror picks it up. All three mirrors should work in harmony with one another.

It won't be hard getting used to a little tilt change here and there. We've been looking at the wrong side of the mirrors for so long a time. This reporter has adjusted her side view mirror. A week into the practice, she's still adjusting. But the "expanded" sights are surprising—and lifesaving.

Toyota No. 1 again; cheers to Honda's Arnel

FULL TANK

Al S. Mendoza

HERE'S a glass to Toyota. It became No. 1 again last month insofar as sales of passenger cars was concerned. This was due mainly to the strong showing of the Toyota Altis in the month of August.

But Toyota was humble enough to admit that Honda was still the overall leader in sales of passenger cars for the year's first eight months.

"But hopefully, by the end of the year, we will overtake Honda," said Toyota's Ariel de Jesus.

That's what you call friendly competition.

* * *

Speaking of Honda, I offer a handshake to Arnel Doria for having been promoted deputy marketing head of the Japanese car company.

Oh, well, I must say the promotion was long overdue. I've always known Arnel as a hardworking Honda man. A workaholic I must insist. And a performer with brilliant results always.

Not only that. He can also sing. I have come to believe long ago that music lovers are always ahead of the pack.

Keep punching, Arnel. I will not be surprised if one day, you'll head this giant car company in the country.

Cheers!

***

Just got back from Tokyo, where I covered Gerry Peñalosa's failed bid to recapture the World Boxing Council superflyweight crown at the Yokohama Arena on Monday, Sept. 24. My service car was a Toyota Celsior (Lexus in the US), owned by Yasuo Matsuoka, the friendliest Japanese I've ever met who is married to Gina, a comely lass from Butuan City who is a childhood friend of basketball pro Zaldy Realubit.

Let me do away with the details of the fight, though, as I pray you have followed my stories at this paper's Sports Section.

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LIFESTYLE Tastes
CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor

ERLINDA Panlilio, VP for external relations, and Felice Sta. Maria, president

Ladies who are the been-there, done-that type in the food and wine appreciation area have been organized into the International Wine and Food Society's Ladies Branch and will have their inaugural dinner on Saturday

Of wine, women and (quite possibly) song

IN GOOD TASTE

Doreen G. Fernandez

WHAT did I have for brunch today? I am dying to tell you. First, there was a home-baked potato bread, which one could dribble with *adobo* oil, or partner with Salsa Monja, or with Torta di Mascarpone. Then came tiny artichoke and spinach quiches, as well as Grissini bread sticks with Jamon Serrano, Smoked Salmon, Herbed Cream Cheese and assorted nuts.

The salad trolley was laden with Mesclun and assorted dressings (balsamic, mustard, French, etc.), with fresh mushrooms, heart of palm, crisp asparagus, artichokes and turnips. The honey-glazed ham warmed alongside its pineapple-raisin sauce, cinnamon yams, mushroom risotto and corn on the cob. Off to one side was the Cheese Fondue station with bread cubes, marble potatoes and onion pearls.

I largely concentrated, however, on a personal

OF WINE/ p.C2

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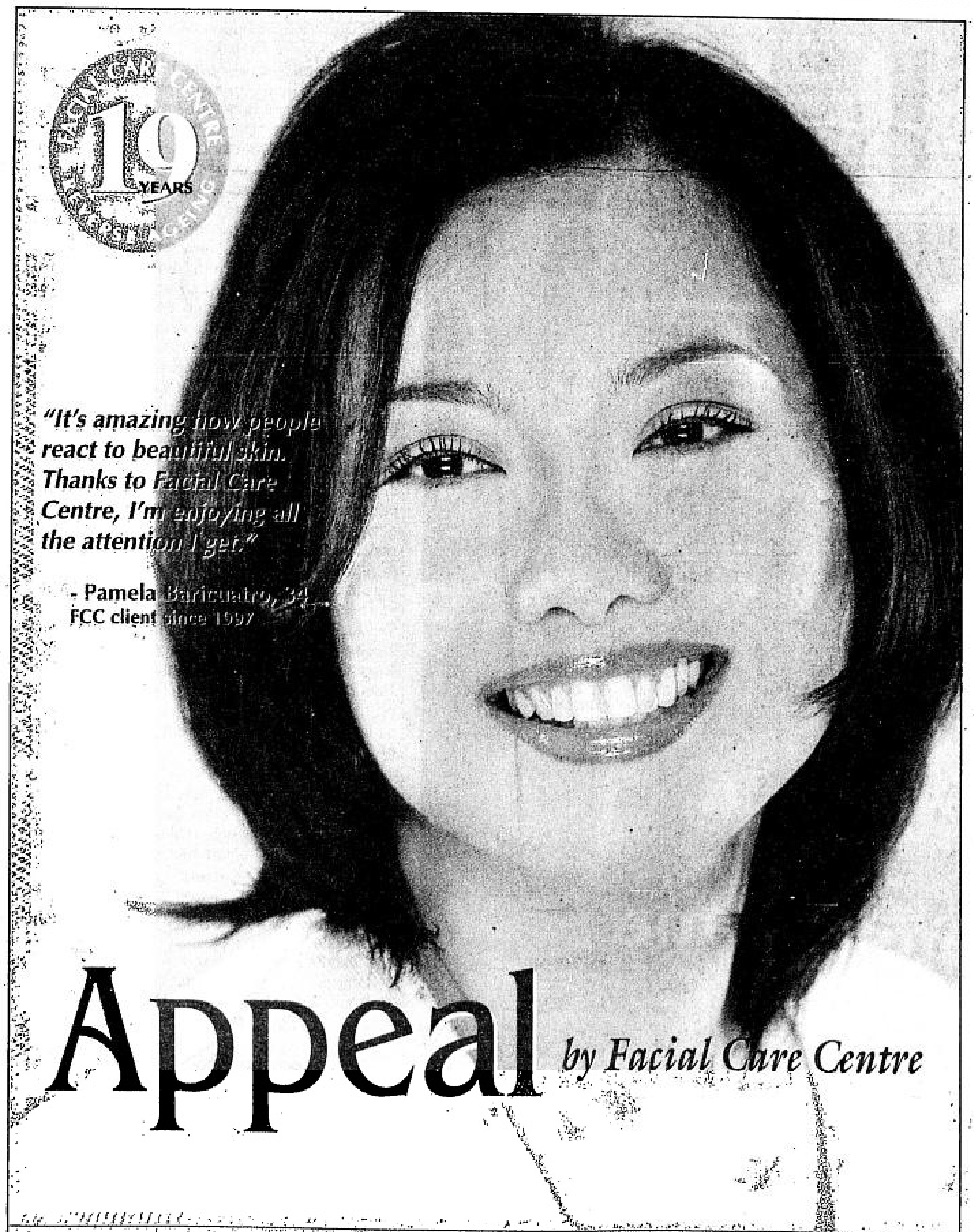

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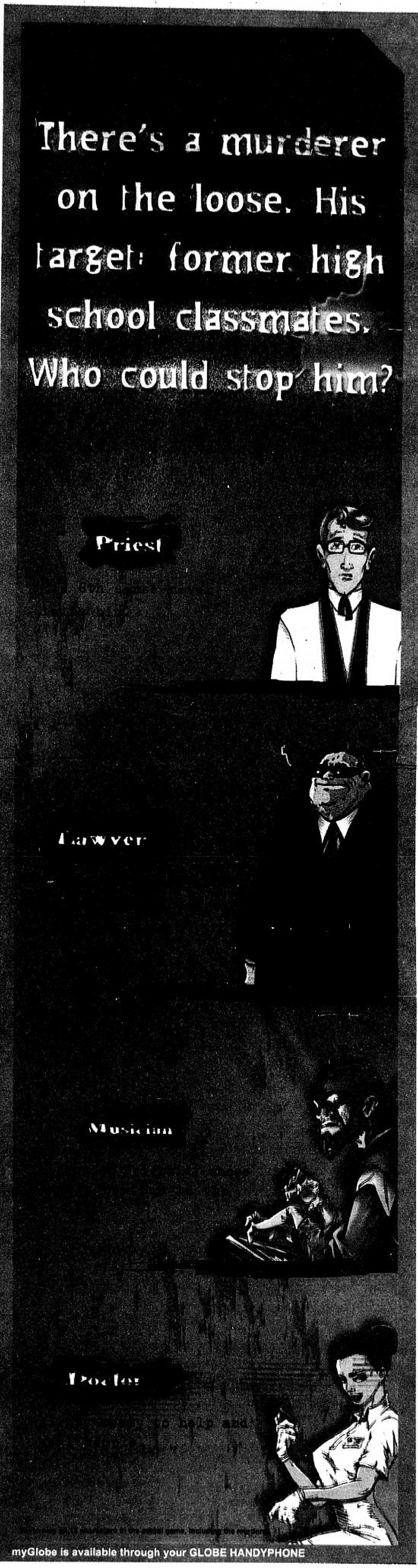
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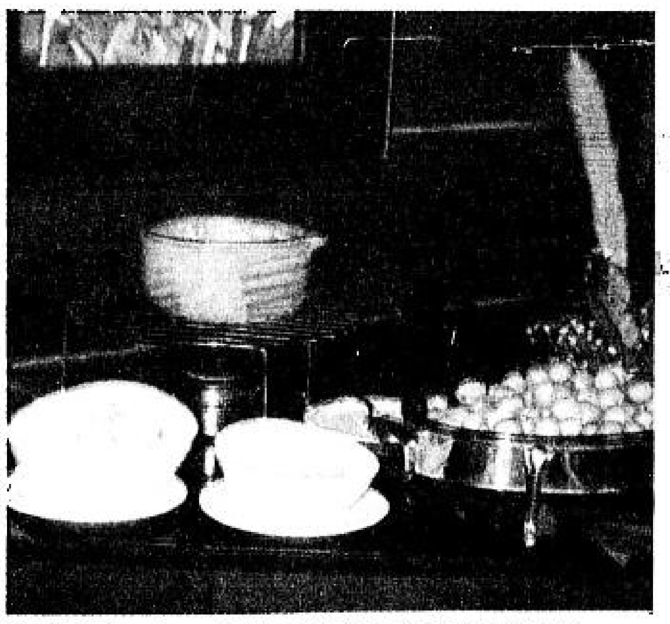
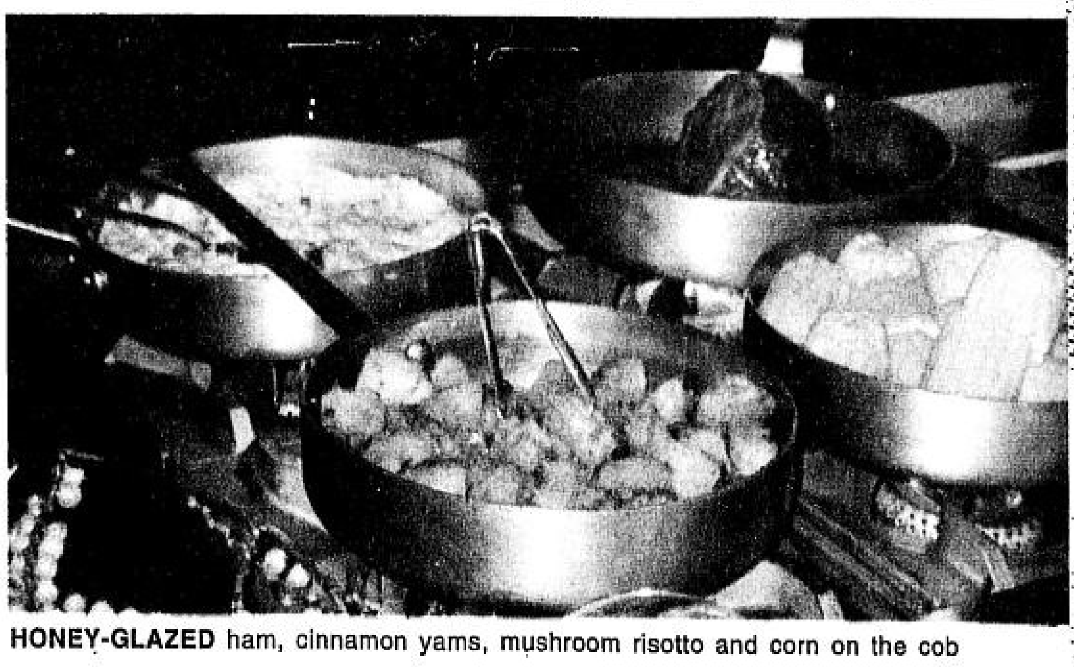


CHEESE fondue with bread cubes, onion pearls and marble patatoes

PANNACOTTA with *pandan* syrup



HONEY-GLAZED ham, cinnamon yams, mushroom risotto and corn on the cob

Of wine, women and (quite possibly) song

(From page C1)

favorite: *Blinis*, the baby Russian pancakes, with sour cream and caviar. They were great with the champagne, but also with the Kir Royale and the Orange Mimosa.

The sweet-lovers purred contentment, faced by the Sweet Corn Pannacotta with *pandan* syrup, and especially with the Coffee Jelly with crème fraiche, sprinkled with crunch bits.

That was brunch, you ask? Yes, it was brunch for a working meeting of the organizers of the International Wine & Food Society, Ladies Branch Phils. This was recently founded by Filemon Juntereal, chair of the Asia Pacific Zone Executive Committee of the IWFS, and rapidly organized by Felice Sta. Maria, who was chosen president.

Hostess that day, and thus author of the remarkable brunch fare, was Myrna Segismundo, who was in New York just then. Her staff at 9501 (14/F ABS-CBN complex) and her friends Omay Chikiamco, editor of Food Magazine and Mickey Fenix, editor of the food page of Today, prepared everything wonderfully, and so we had a host present only through the food, portent of the future of the IWFS Ladies Branch Phils.

A word of explanation. What are the ladies a branch of, or a branch to? The International Wine & Food Society of the Phils., chartered in October 1980, now boasts a roster of 50 members, and is headed by Fil Juntereal, honorary chair. Ladies knowledgeable in, cognizant of and interested in the miraculous alchemy of food and wine ingested together in appreciation and grace, were invited to form a ladies' branch, and 30 are currently on the roster.

Presidenta Felice has a working team including Myrna Segismundo, director for gastronomy; Norma Chikiamco, deputy director for gastronomy; Micaela Fenix, archivist; Deedee Garcia Agustines, director for membership; Nancy Reyes Lumen, deputy director for membership; Sevrine Mialhe, director for wines; Elsie P. Araneta, auditor; Pia Lim Castillo, vice president; Doreen G. Fernandez, deputy vice president; Minney Reyes, secretary for internal affairs; Erlinda Panlilio, secretary for external affairs; and Gloria O. Reyes, treasurer.

The IWFS Ladies Branch Phils. inaugural dinner will be held on Sept. 29, the 103rd anniversary of what is known to most as the Malolos Banquet, which commemorated the Solemne Ratificacion de la Independencia Filipina in 1898.

Chef-patron Gene Gonzalez is serving the ladies and their guests what he calls the Centennial Menu, at the elegant Gino's at Café Ysabel in San Juan. Gene (TOYM 1993, proponent of Alta Cocina Filipina) is the great-grandson of Don Joaquin Arnedo, whose Sulipan chefs Capitan Juan Padilla and Emilio Gonzalez prepared the original Malolos Banquet.

Gene's year 2001 translation and interpretation of this includes:

Appetizers

Oysters—Shrimp Roses—Butter
Radish—Olives—Lyon Sausage
Sardines with Tomato—Salmon in Hollandaise
Cold Ham and Asparagus Spears

Entrées

Deviled Crab
Puff Pastry with Tongue, Sweetbreads, Ham and Mushrooms
Chicken Liver and Gizzard Pie
Braised Turkey Colonial Style
Roasted Tenderloin

Desserts

Cheese—Fruits—Confitures
Strawberry Mousse
Old-fashioned *sorbetes de mantecado a la garapinera*

Wines-Liqueurs

Bordeaux—Sauterne—Xerex—Champagne
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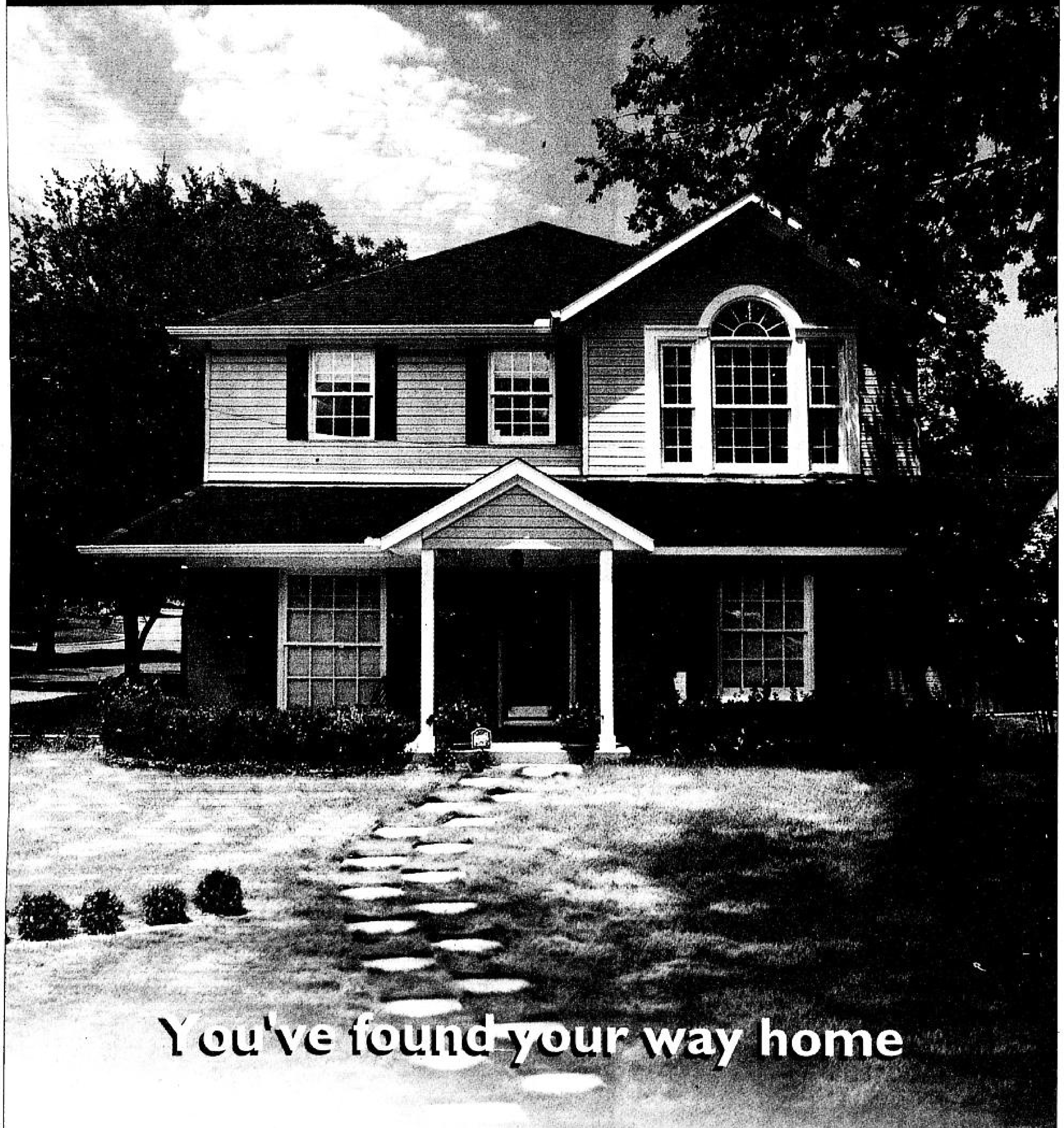

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Cagayan de Oro	(088) 857-1425	Velez, Cagayan de Oro
Cebu	(032) 231-1083 / 231-4318	Gorordo Ave., Lahug, Cebu City
Davao	(082) 221-7944 / 221-7925	EPCIBank San Pedro, Davao City
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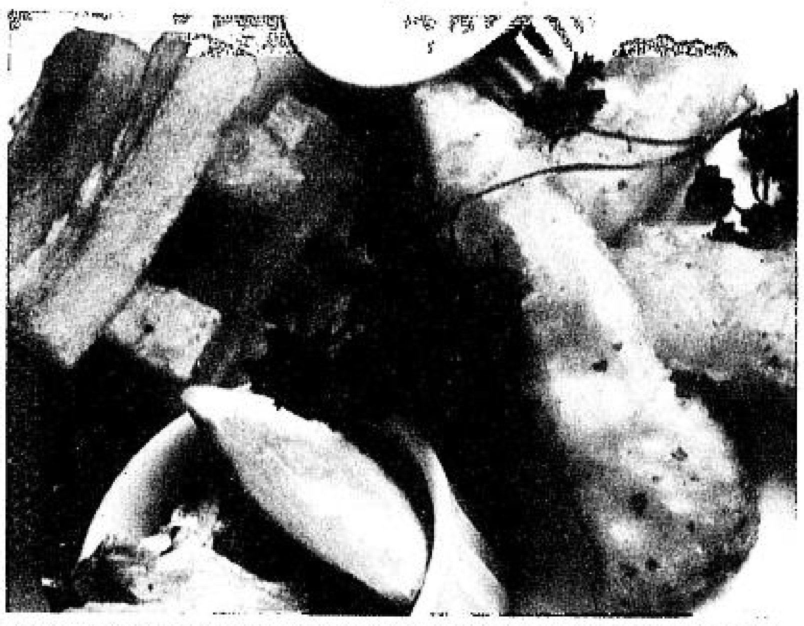
AZZURRO'S deli bar

Megastrip turns Mediterranean



AZZURRO'S FISH AND CHIPS. Deep-fried battered fillet of perch with balsamic vinegar, home-cut chips and classic tartar sauce

WITH ITS fusion of Spanish, French, Italian and Greek cuisine, Azzuro Too attracts a young, cosmopolitan crowd.

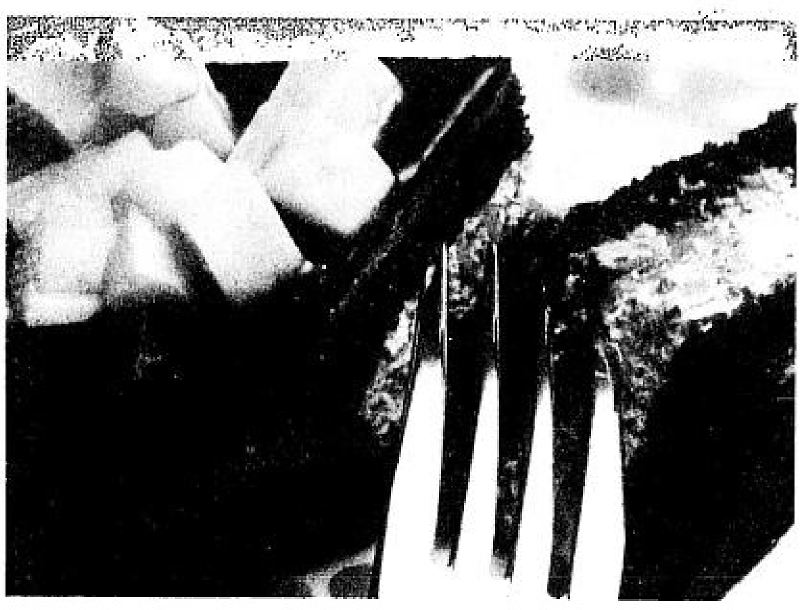
For appetizers, it offers bruschettas (Chicken and Cucumber, Creamed Mushroom with Cured Ham), carpaccios (beef, *gindara*, salmon) and oysters. It also serves soups (cream of roasted pumpkin, prawn bisque), salads (grilled tuna nicoise, horiatiki salad, Caesar's salad) and panini selections (maple smoked bacon and button mushrooms in foccacia; marinated tuna, quail eggs, mayonnaise in ciabatta).

The restaurant's main entrées reveal its Mediterranean roots: *paella* selections (valenciana, nero vegetable) from Spain; pastas (spaghettini al pesce de tachino, linguini gamberoni con pesto, fussili fruite del mer) from Italy; lamb entrées (curried lamb, cummi and chili braised lamb) from Greece; and nouvelle cuisine recipes (salmon venoise and grilled fish 'd jour) from France.

Azzuro Too's desserts are simply to die for: Azzuro's Signature, orange flavored custard with *lengua de gato*; Strawberry or Mango Chantilly, a thin biscuit basket with soft pastry cream, strawberries and blueberries; and Le Collection, a combination of three signature desserts.

One of Azzuro Too's attractions is its Deli Bar, which features sausages (schublig, bratwurst, Hungarian sausage), smoked- and air-dried items, sauces (pesto, carbonara, bolognese) and other deli items.

Azzuro Too Bistro Deli and Bar is located at the Megastrip, SM Megamall.



AZZURRO'S signature dessert

SALMON Gravlax Carpaccio accompanied by arugula leaves and mustard seed dressing

Free delivery for mall workers

HERE'S good news for food lovers who work in Glorietta Mall, Makati City.

Italianni's Bakery & Café is now offering free delivery services.

"We've seen that many of our guests work within the mall. We'd like them to enjoy Italianni's food right in their offices, especially if they don't have the time to step out of work to eat lunch or *merienda*. We offer them convenience," says Italianni's GM Amy Dizon.

The free delivery menu includes some of Italianni's top-selling entrées, like the Grilled Pork Chop and Italianni's Herb Roasted Chicken, among others, and pastas such as Angel Hair Pomodoro. Freshly baked goodies for a midday repast such as the Blueberry or Choco Muffin or Giant or Small Chunky Choco Chip and desserts like the Strawberry Cheesecake, Tartufo, Tiramisu or Creme Brulée as well as canned soda can also be delivered without the extra charge.

Call 757-1323 to 24 for delivery, or visit Italianni's Bakery & Café at 2/L Glorietta IV.

Courses on cooking and restaurant operations

MAYA Kitchen will conduct special lectures on baking, cooking and restaurant business, as follows:

On Sept. 29, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., learn the ins and outs of running a restaurant in Restaurant Operations course. Be an expert in kitchen organization, cycle menu planning, costing, cost control, purchasing, labor, payroll, inventory and other restaurant related matters.

Start up your own *panaderia* with the course on Pinoy Bread Making on Sept. 29, 1:30-5 p.m. Satisfy the Pinoy's appetite with their favorite *ensaymada*, *mongo* loaf, Spanish bread, cinnamon rolls, *pan de sal*, *pan de coco*, rainbow bread, banana bread and raisin bread.

Visit the Maya kitchen at 8/F Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Avenue (Pasay Road), Makati City or call 892-1185/5011 local 108 or e-mail mayakitchen@pacific.net.ph.

It's about time we let the new generation do the cooking.

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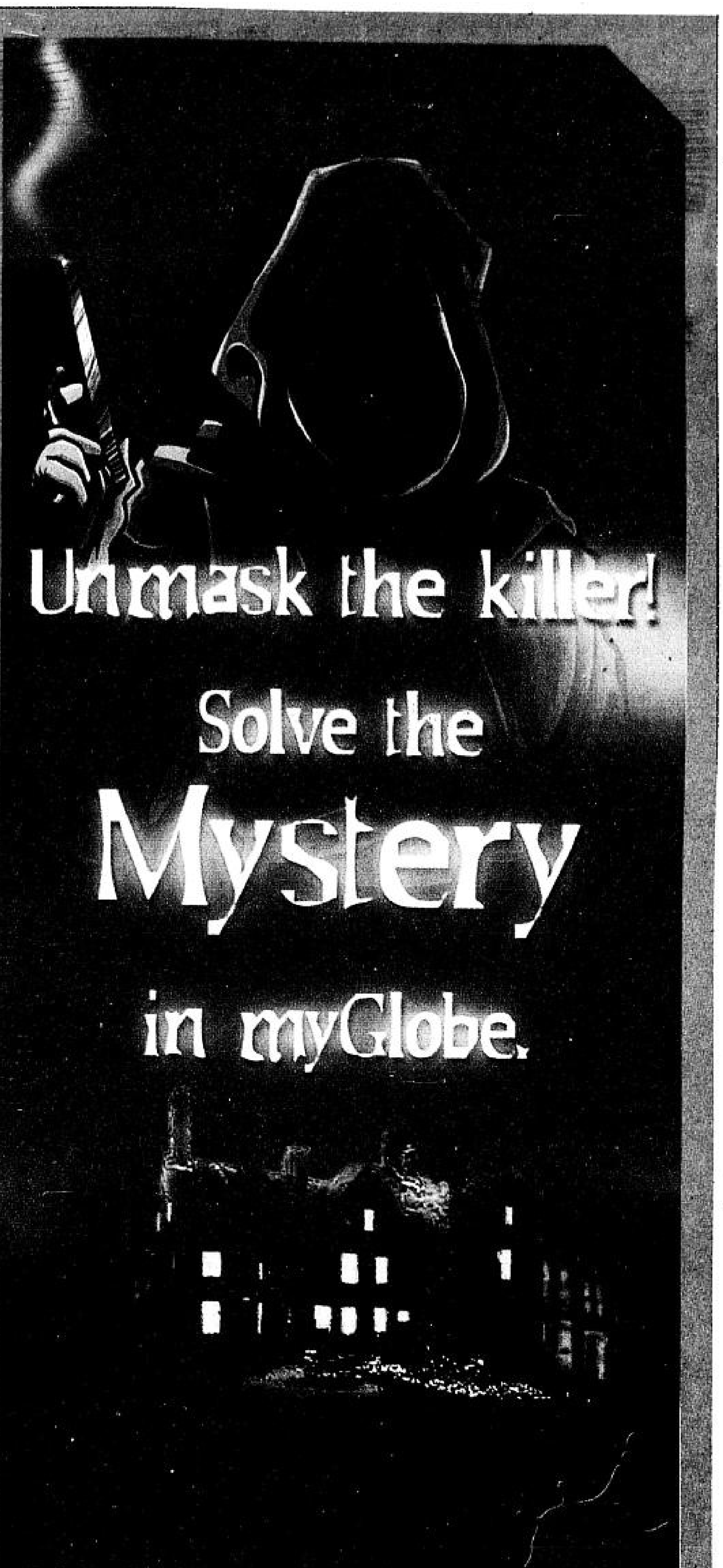
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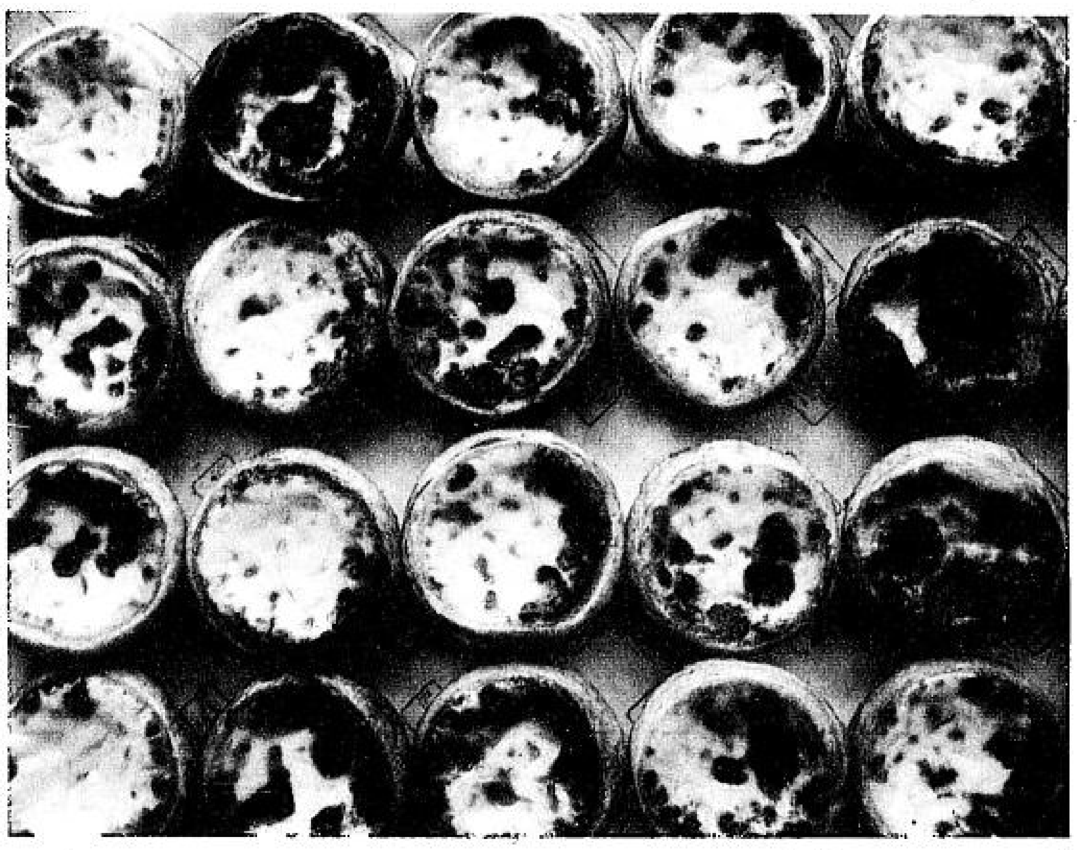
The wibbly-wobbly egg tart is a 'little piece of heaven'

OPENERS. From left, Shirley Loa, Nenita Uy, Jennie Mah, Andrew Stow, Jenny Go, Stanley Uy, Nelson Uy and Juan T. Uy

Lord of tarts comes to Greenhills

By Cathy Babao Guballa



ANDREW Stow had always loved to cook and experiment in the kitchen with his younger sister Eileen. After moving to Macau in the early '80s from the United Kingdom, the former chemist's career took several twists and turns before he became a baker answering to the moniker "Lord Stow." While managing the upscale Portuguese restaurant Alfonso's at Hyatt Regency Macau, he observed its pastry chef, Elias Santos da Silva, who was credited with introducing *pasteis de nata*, or egg tarts, to Macau in 1986. It was at this time that he noticed the cultural importance of the little pastry. "I would see Portuguese in the Hyatt who had to have their egg tarts every day." Soon after, Lord Stow began to experiment and improve on the traditional recipe and turn it into his own specialty. Thus, the chemist turned restaurant manager turned baker.

In 1989, Stow opened Lord Stow's Bakery, a modest affair composed of a couple of ovens, a handful of staff and some basic equipment in a small village on Coloane Island, Macau. Though he had initial qualms since he was told that the Chinese never ate anything burnt (which the topping of the egg tart is, slightly, to add flavor) because it was believed to give them "bad air," the egg tarts soon became a hit.

Lord Stow's formula substitutes cream for milk, and makes a far more "wibbly, wobbly version." Taking out the more unhealthy ingredients such as pork fat, additives or preservatives, he converted the Macau specialty into the tiny pies that Asians now love.

All over Asia

In 1997, he opened his first modest franchise outlet in Hong Kong and as soon as the doors of this shop opened, snake-like queues began forming outside for a taste of "little pieces of heaven." Perfectly bringing together color, texture and flavor, its yellow cream filling is slightly burnt on top, encased in a crispy, pastry shell (that doesn't collapse when you bite into it) to contrast with the soft, "wibbly-wobbly" inside. Expectedly, dozens of egg tart shops began to sprout around Hong Kong and Taiwan. Among the hundred or so copycats that opened in Taipei, only three sold the original Lord Stow product.

Early 1999 found Stow opening shops in Japan and in December of the same year, the signature items of Lord Stow's came to Manila when Just Simple Bake House opened at the Ayala Center, under Master Franchise. The tarts were a big hit and other branches—Park Square in Makati, Ongpin and Banaue—were opened within the next two years. Last year found Lord Stow breaking ground also in Bangkok, Thailand. Currently, he is working with new associates in Korea to open his bakery in Seoul before Christmas.

The latest and biggest outlet in town opened Sept. 21 on the ground floor of Madison Square on Ortigas Avenue in Greenhills, San Juan. Henry and Jenny Go, with three other partners, own and operate Just Simple Bake House, master franchisee for Lord Stow's Bakery in the Philippines. The Go couple oversees the day-to-day operations of their biggest outlet to date, which offers not only delicious egg tarts but an array of other dishes, sandwiches and drinks as well. Jenny Go's pastas and vegetable cheddar soup are part of an entrée that does not use extenders, preservatives, MSG and other nonhealthy ingredients. Go says they also serve products for those with dietary restrictions, such as Japanese cheesecake and Egg White cake for those with sugar or cholesterol problems.

Observing the line of people outside the Greenhills branch during its opening, Stow beamed with pride. It must have felt like heaven.

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph

MASTER Franchise's Henry and Jenny Go with Anrew Stow, creator of the popular egg tarts

Would you believe 'pili' from Negros?

NEW products from Negros island are currently on exhibit at the Megatrade Hall 1, SM Megamall as part of the 14th annual Negros Trade Fair.

The products include fruits, flowers, chips and nuts grown and processed in the ECJ and Sons Agricultural Corp. farms in Negros Occidental. Among these products are *pili* nuts, *durian* chips and banana chips. Also included are candied versions of the fruits ECJ produces. Previously products identified with other provinces, *pili*, *durian* and banana are now produced on a large scale in Negros Occidental by ECJ and Sons.

Pili is sold as kernels and in glazed or salted forms. *Durian* can come in frozen form or as chips. Aside from these, ECJ products that are being retailed at the fair ongoing until Sept. 30 include mango jams, Jamaican chili sauce, Chinese chili sauce, Chili in Oil, Hot Vinegar and Hydrangeas or mil flores.

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HEALTHIER Tacos

PEAS IN A POT

Healthy and low-cost recipes to try at home

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A little meat goes a long way when you stretch it with lentils. Try adding cooked lentils to spaghetti sauce, lasagna or taco meat, or other family favorites. On the other hand, peas work wonders in soups, salads, fried rice and stews.

Eating peas and lentils can help reduce the risk of cancer and heart disease. One of the most edible and leading brands in the market, Easy Cook Peas and Lentils are available in 400 g at selected groceries and supermarkets nationwide.

Exclusively distributed by Ideal Macaroni and Spaghetti Factory Inc., Easy Cook Peas and Lentils come in different variants: Easy Cook Yellow Split Peas, Lentils and Green Split Peas. Also available are Great Northern Beans, Pinto Beans and Light Red Kidney Beans.

These high quality peas and lentils are imported from Idaho, USA, and are classified as US No. 1 grade. Use Easy Cook Peas and Lentils for locked-in freshness and nutrition in food. All that nutrition and goodness makes low-cost peas and lentils one of the best food buys in the supermarket.

For free recipes and more information, write to Ideal Macaroni and Spaghetti Factory Inc. c/o Marketing Department, or visit www.pea-lentil.com.

Healthier Tacos

1 c boiled Easy Cook Lentils, drained very well
¼ kg ground beef
Salt and pepper to taste

1 c grated cheddar cheese
½ head Baguio lettuce, shredded finely
taco shells

Salsa:
½ c chopped onions
½ c chopped tomatoes
¼ c crushed cilantro leaves
lemon juice
tomato juice
hot sauce

Mash the lentils well. Season ground beef in a pan till its own oil comes out. Cook till ground beef is dry. Drain very well. Prepare the salsa of onions, tomatoes, etc.

Assemble: Take one taco shell and fill the bottom with about ¼ mashed lentils.

HEALTHY/ p.D2

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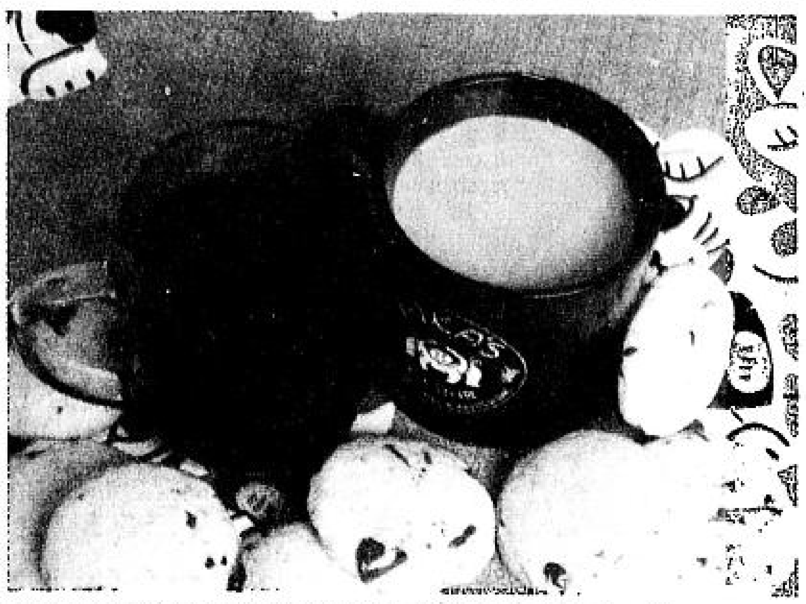
FIT TO A TEA. From the classic black tea to fruit-flavored tea shakes



HOT CLASSICS. Hot brewed tea with milk and other flavors

KOREAN BEEF STEW. Sweet and tasty beef chunks stewed in special sauce and spices, served with rice

Refreshing kind of bar serves tea concoctions and blends

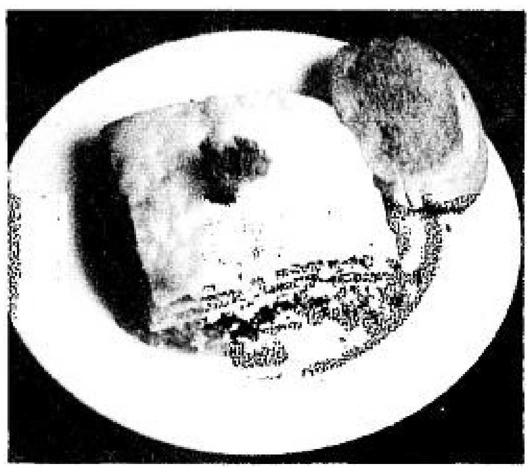
TEA and sympathy are offered in natural and healthy doses at Taka's Tea Bar, the only tea bar in the Philippines that offers a myriad of tea concoctions and blends.

The owners of Taka undertook thorough market studies and product developments.

"We consulted with respectable tea connoisseurs and imported their ideas to come up with different tea blends," says Jun Rodriguez, one of the three owners of the newly opened outlet near the Robinsons Movieworld, 4/L Robinsons Galleria.

Green tea and classic black tea are used as the base of most of the drinks. "These tea leaves are imported from different tea-producing countries in Asia. So our customers can order tea in its traditional hot brew or can opt for tea shaken with ice and natural fruit juices," adds Rodriguez. "Most of our blends and concoctions suit the Filipino taste buds."

SPECIAL MILK TEAS. Freshly brewed tea blended with milk and natural flavors



BEEF LASAGNA. Layers of beef and cheese on lasagna pasta

Taka's Tea Bar offers choices like Hot Milk Teas (both classic and green tea), the Hot Malt Milk Tea and the Hot Kalamansi Green Tea. The cold variety includes Tropical Green Teas (freshly brewed green tea shaken with ice and natural fruit juices), Snow Shakes, Yuppie Yogurts, Frostea Freezes. Among the favorites are Strawberry Yogurt, Cappuccino Freeze and the Chocolate Freeze. Prices of these drinks range from P35-80.

Taka's Tea Bar also offers Taka's Pasta Corner, fast becoming a crowd drawer at the Galleria branch. Among the favorites are Creamy Carbonara and Beef Lasagna.

"Aside from our tea concoctions and pasta selections, we decided to offer food items that we felt will be a good compliment to our beverage menu," says Rodriguez. He adds that these meals—such as Sumo sandwiches, Korean Beef Stew, Japanese curry rice with chicken and beef combinations, Sumo Sardine and the Unagi meal—cost less than P100 on the average.

In the pipeline are Taka's Green Tea Ice Cream and Oolong Tea Ice Cream.

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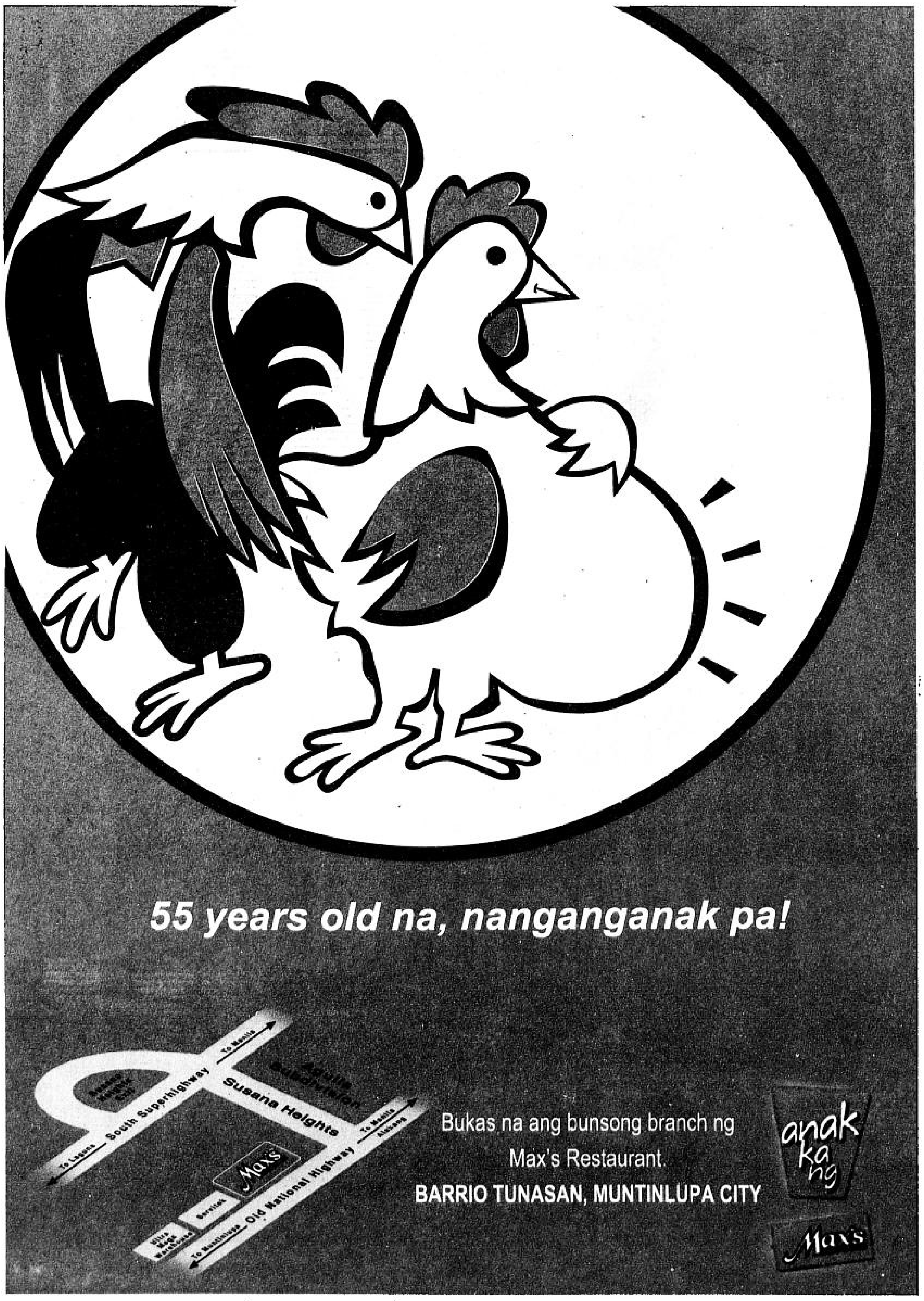
The oil in which food is cooked enhances the flavor. Food experts say the best oil to use is olive oil. There is no country in the world with higher standards of quality for olive oil than Italy. And no Italian olive oil is produced like Pietro Coricelli, which is filtered three times for maximum purity in modern pressing facilities that are devoted 100 percent to olive oil production. Pietro Coricelli imparts a more distinct taste, fragrance and color to main dishes and salads. It is also ideal for sauces, roasts and homemade mayonnaise. Exclusively distributed by Fly Ace Corp.


55 years old na, nanganganak pa!

Bukas na ang bunsong branch ng
Max's Restaurant.
BARRIO TUNASAN, MUNTINLUPA CITY

Healthy and low-cost recipes to try at home

(From page D1)

Top with salsa. Top with lettuce. Top with beef. Top with cheese.

New World Pea Soup

¼ kg beef for soup (*campto*, shank, ribs)
¼ kg pork belly (skin on), sliced into rectangles
5-6 cuts parts of chicken
enough water to cover the meats and make stock
1 medium onion, chopped
8-10 garlic cloves, whole
¼ cabbage, cut into wedges
3-4 ripe *saba* bananas, cut into 3
1 c uncooked Easy Cook Lentils

In a heavy pot, boil beef, pork and chicken meat in water till tender. Be sure to add choice herbs for flavoring (oregano, thyme, salt, pepper, liquid seasoning). Remove the meat as they get tender. Add onions, garlic and lentils. Put back the meat. Cook till lentils are almost done. Drop the cabbage and bananas. Cook till done, then serve.

Peas Stew

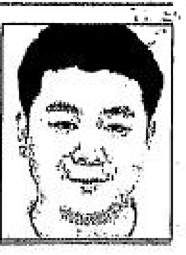
3 tbsp olive oil
1 c uncooked Easy Cook Green and Yellow Split peas
1 medium onion, chopped
½ can stewed tomatoes
1 *chorizo de bilbao*, sliced diagonally
100 g bacon
100 g ham
3 chicken bouillon cubes
½ head of garlic
¼ bay leaf
salt and pepper to taste
water

Heat olive oil and sauté lentils for 5 minutes. Then add onions and tomatoes. Add *chorizo*, ham, bacon and let cook till juices are almost dry and oil surfaces. Increase the heat and add chicken cubes. Season with garlic, bay leaf, salt and pepper. Cover and let simmer gently over low heat till lentils are done.

Sex and the food columnist

THE MAD TEA PARTY

Clinton Palanca



AN OFTEN-QUOTED anecdote is that of the young upstart who goes to the man of the world to seek his tutelage. "I wish to learn more about wine. How do I do that?" he asks. The reply: "Drink it." You can take this literally, and enjoy what has to be one of most pleasurable educational undertakings possible. Or one can take it metaphorically, and expound on its philosophical implications, especially if you're the sort of person who would explain a joke. I, on the other hand, simply am using it to justify spending three days holed up in bed watching two seasons' worth of "Sex & the City" on video-cassette.

The series has always interested me vaguely, since it appeared to be about sex, dating, journalism and various other topics close to my heart; but I didn't own a television set, and was never anywhere near one on Tuesday nights. Now I not only have a television set but a DVD player, a VHS player and a VCD player purchased from Virra Mall for P2,000 that bears the brand name Sparkle and comes with a microphone and remote control (and, just in case you aren't sold on it yet, when you turn it on it shows you a picture of vivid Alpine scenery before playing the disc).

Meanwhile, "Sex & the City" appears to have taken this city by storm. Flute, the bar that is so resolutely hip that it refuses to even put up a sign to indicate is presence, has "Sex & the City"-themed nights on Tuesdays, as well as cocktails named after each of the four main characters. People everywhere, both men and women, discuss their romantic lives using the show as a reference point. And perhaps the most cliched way to start a conversation at the moment is to ask a man which of the girls he would prefer to date, or ask a woman whom she identifies with most. Any group of girls out for a drink on a Friday night with more than three persons at the table will have assigned roles: She's Carrie, she's Miranda, she's Charlotte, and pity the poor girl who is designated as the counterpart of the tramp Samantha.

Three mysteries

The first thing I must admit is that the show is exceedingly well-written, although, like "Friends," the characters seem to all have a purchasing power and a standard of living well beyond their supposed professions. Carrie, for instance, writes a weekly column on sex. I, too, write a weekly column on sex, although I do try to slip in a few mentions of food once in a while to justify its existence in the Taste section of the paper (*And that's the reason Mr. Palanca's column doesn't appear some Thursdays—Ed.*). If this were my sole source of income, I would be living in a box and selling off internal organs to keep myself alive. If Carrie keeps up her lifestyle by writing a column once a week, she must be in the heaven-blessed situation of being paid $30 per word, even the word "the."

The second mystery (and it is a sorrowful mystery, if one must classify) is how Carrie manages to ponder a point in her column, and then have her love life, and her friends' love lives, manage to conveniently fall into place to illustrate, exemplify and explore her hypotheses. But let us move on to the third sorrowful mystery, and one that is of great relevance to me, which is how Carrie manages to write about her romantic and sexual life and still get a date. I have hundreds of dating stories that I'd like to tell, questions about women that I'd like to air in public, grievances to vent in hope of a response; but no one with a sane mind who wants to have another date is going to say these things out loud in a national newspaper.

Girls who have changed their cell phone numbers because of me will be no doubt be pleased to hear that I have quit the dating scene, and am now barricaded in my apartment with my dog and my discovery of the wonders of television. My current role model of choice is Prof. Henry Higgins, the cranky old bachelor who wanders about in carpet slippers yelling at everyone, and whose most romantic line in the entire film is: "Where the devil are my slippers?" Actually, even when I was supposedly dating, my success rates and emotional involvements were roughly similar, except that I was a good deal more frustrated. If you're going to ask me to give in my report from the streets, I will respond with Louis XVI's diary the day the revolution broke out in Paris: "Nothing happened."

It would be a relief if I could believe those who throw up their hands and explain: "Look, it's just television. No one really has that much sex, not even in New York." But I know several people who do have that much sex, and they live in the same city that I live in, and no, they are not paid by the hour. They're people just like you and me, except that they juggle several relationships a month, and consider three days as a long and unbearable "dry period" without sex. I am resentful and jealous of these people, and give them the smaller portions when they are at my dinner-parties. Like the Phantom of the Opera, I consider it my lucky day when girls don't turn away in fear and horror when I approach them; and a great night for me is when I meet someone I've met before and she actually remembers my name.

Dating nemesis

I will be the first to admit, though, that much of the problem stems from my end. I don't have a pus-ridden face or a hump on my back, but put me in front of a beautiful woman and I will emit various incoherent noises, turn scarlet from embarrassment, mumble a pseudo-intellectual non sequitur, such as "Did you know that the Pope has apologized about Galileo?" and then stumble off. "Did you get her phone number?" my friends ask; meanwhile, her friends have clustered around her protectively and have alerted security about the presence of someone either mad, drunk or stoned. Any of these would be far more interesting than the truth, which is simple preternatural shyness.

Which brings us to the main problem of dating, which is that, by definition, one should go out on a date. This usually involves dinner. Dinner takes time; and during the moments when you're not masticating or perusing the menu, you're supposed to be engaged in conversation. This is a nightmare for me, and is the reason dinner at a fancy French restaurant is a dating nemesis for me. After desultory discussions of career, past boyfriends and a short recap of current events, I surreptitiously check the menu: *Five more courses to go!* What on earth is there to talk about while we pick at our piccatas and deflower the florentines? So I blurt out: "Have you ever watched 'Sex & the City'? Which character do you think you are there?"

"Sex & the City" is our new mythology. For the generation which believes that redemption is to be found in love, for the segment of the population for whom the search for romance is the prime motivation for living, and for the frustrated and lonely who board up their windows and have conversations with the dog, these characters are like Homer's fallible gods, whose stories serve as a common reference point, and whose deeds serve to teach us wisdom.

"Drink it," was the reply; and so I imbibed two seasons' worth in as many days. I now know the gospels. But as with any theology, the gap between faith and praxis is a wide one, and in the near future the possibility of sex, let alone a good date, would be (to continue the ecclesiastical vocabulary) nothing short of a miracle. Oh, and just so that you don't have to ask, my favorite among the four is Miranda.

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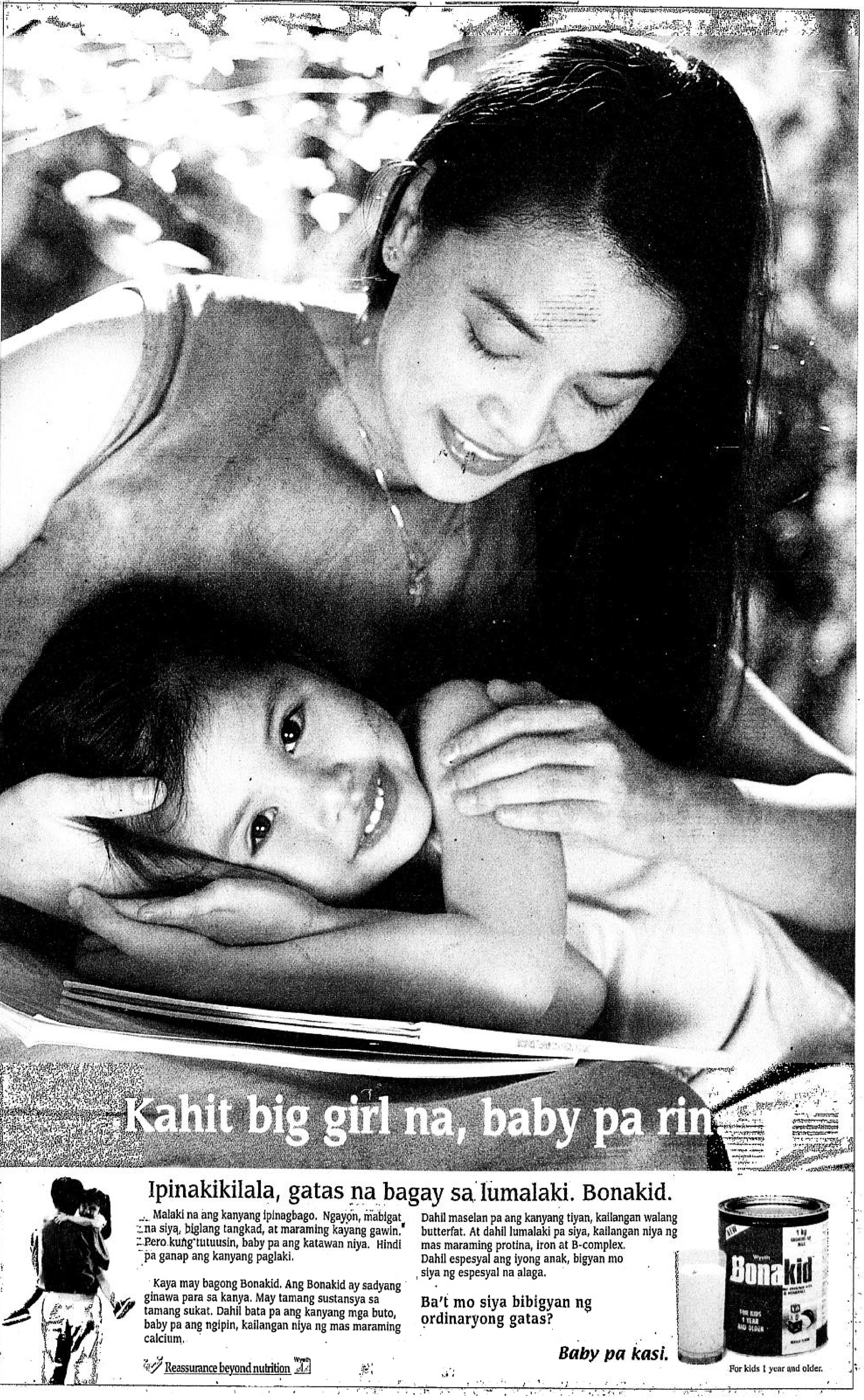
Kahit big girl na, baby pa rin

Ipinakikilala, gatas na bagay sa lumalaki. Bonakid.

Malaki na ang kanyang ipinagbago. Ngayon, mabigat na siya, biglang tangkad, at maraming kayang gawin. Pero kung tutuusin, baby pa ang katawan niya. Hindi pa ganap ang kanyang paglaki.

Kaya may bagong Bonakid. Ang Bonakid ay sadyang ginawa para sa kanya. May tamang sustansya sa tamang sukat. Dahil bata pa ang kanyang mga buto, baby pa ang ngipin, kailangan niya ng mas maraming calcium.

Dahil maselan pa ang kanyang tiyan, kailangan walang butterfat. At dahil lumalaki pa siya, kailangan niya ng mas maraming protina, iron at B-complex.
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